MANORAMA

TELL ME WHY

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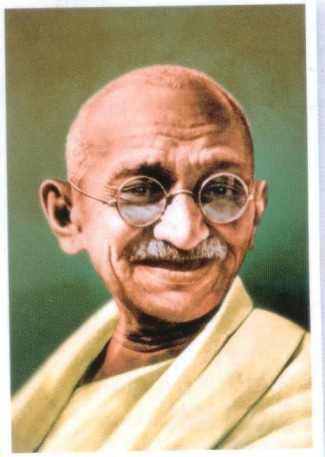

I want world sympathy in this battle of Right against Might.
Gandhi
M.K. Gandhi
5th. 4. '30

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OUR FREEDOM STRUGGLE

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Is kangaroo the only animal to have a pouch?

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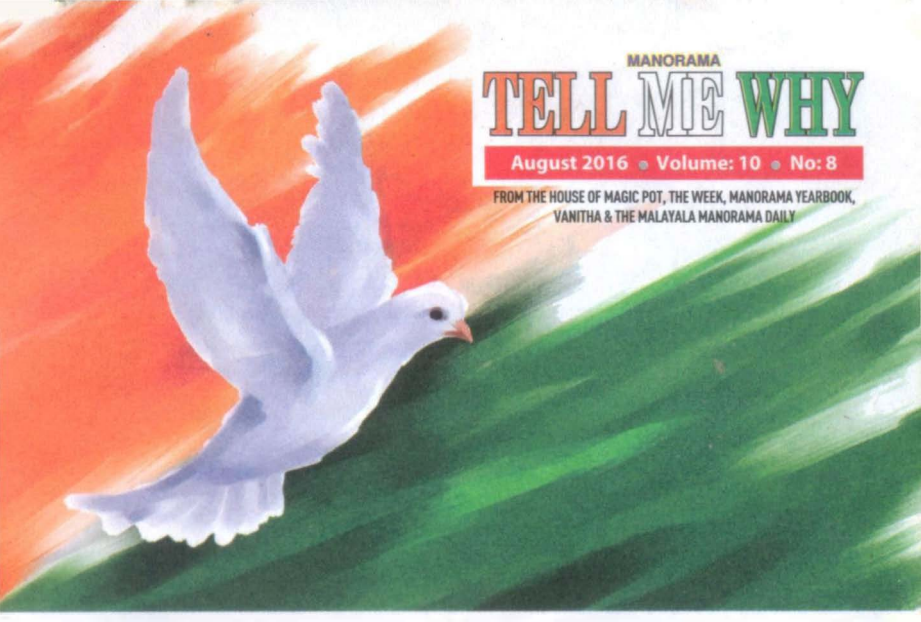


MANORAMA
TELL ME WHY
August 2016 • Volume: 10 • No: 8
FROM THE HOUSE OF MAGIC POT, THE WEEK, MANORAMA YEARBOOK, VANITHA & THE MALAYALA MANORAMA DAILY

JAI HIND

It was a war that was won, without a single gun being fired. The greatest imperialist power in the world was driven away from India by the strength of non-violence. This is what makes the story of our freedom struggle, and Gandhiji, the prophet of Ahimsa, so unique in world history.

Even though it was non-violence which ultimately won us our freedom, one cannot ignore the contributions made by those who opted for armed rebellion, like Subhas Chandra Bose. In fact, many ideologies played a pivotal role in the long battle. After many years of sacrifices by our people, the British were forced to leave 'the jewel in their crown'. India became independent.

This issue of 'Tell Me Why,' gives you an insight into our long, and stirring struggle for freedom.

OUR FREEDOM STRUGGLE

Why has Europe always been fascinated by India?

India was renowned in the ancient world as a mysterious, magical land abounding in riches and spices. European nations have been fascinated by India for thousands of years.

The first Europeans to arrive in India were the Ancient Greeks. The Greeks came not only in search of new conquests, but also in search of knowledge and trade.

Later on, regular trade routes were established over

land, for Indian spices were in great demand in Europe. In time, these trade routes became the communication highways of the Ancient World.

During the Middle Ages, when the land routes became too dangerous for European merchants because of attacks by the Ottoman Empire, the Europeans set out to discover a sea route to India.

Which were some of the European countries that colonised India?

India has been colonised by different European countries at different times in its history.

The Portuguese came first. They established many trading posts and their success brought other European powers to India in search of trading concessions.

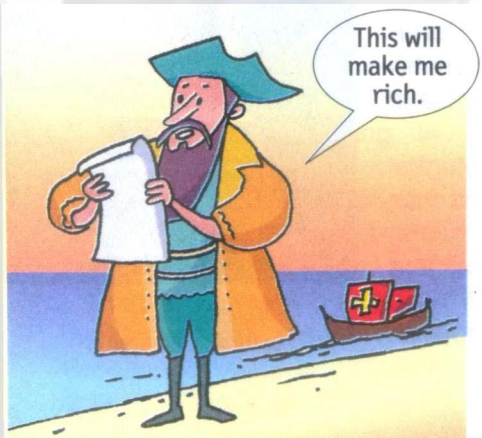
The French, the Dutch, the Portuguese, and of course the British, all ruled some part or the other of India at one time or the other.

By the 18th century, the Mughal Empire had become weak, and was breaking up. The other Indian rulers, were fighting with one another, and were in a vulnerable position. All these factors greatly helped the European nations to establish colonies in India, and to extend their empires.

Monument to Vasco da Gama at the Cape of Good Hope

THE ERA OF COLONIALISM

Vasco da Gama lands at Calicut



Why did the arrival of Vasco da Gama in India herald the beginning of a new era?

Vasco da Gama was the first European explorer to leave Europe by ship, and sail to India by going around Africa. He left Portugal on 8th July 1497, and reached the coast of Calicut, Kerala, on 20th May 1498. He obtained permission from the local ruler to trade in the city, and his expedition and arrival in India marked the beginning of a new era in Indian history.

Da Gama's expedition was hugely successful. He took back to Portugal cargo that was worth sixty times the cost of the expedition! He became a hero in his country.

Vasco da Gama was followed by other Portuguese explorers, and soon, Portuguese forts dotted the South west coast of India. Before long, the Portuguese had established several colonies in India. Together, these became a part of the Portuguese Overseas Empire.

Why was Portuguese rule in India significant?

The arrival of Vasco da Gama, a nobleman from the household of the King of Portugal, at the port of Calicut in Kerala, on 20th May 1498 was a turning point in Indian history.

In 1502, the Portuguese Empire established the first European trading centre at Kollam, Kerala. Francisco de Almeida was the first Portuguese Viceroy in India, followed by Afonso de Albuquerque in 1509.

Albuquerque conquered the city of Goa. Goa became Portugal's most prized possession, and the seat of the Viceroy.

The Portuguese next established a chain of outposts and settlements at Daman, Diu, Chaul, Bacaim, Salsette, and Mumbai.

The coming of the Portuguese initiated the European colonisation in India which lasted for years.

Vasco da Gama

One, Two, and Three...

Vasco da Gama made two more trips to India. During the second voyage, he captured Arab ships and tried to establish the might of the Portuguese navy. On the third voyage, Vasco was to take over as Viceroy of Portuguese India. However, he died of malaria shortly after arriving in India.

Vasco da Gama Leaving the Port of Lisbon, Portugal

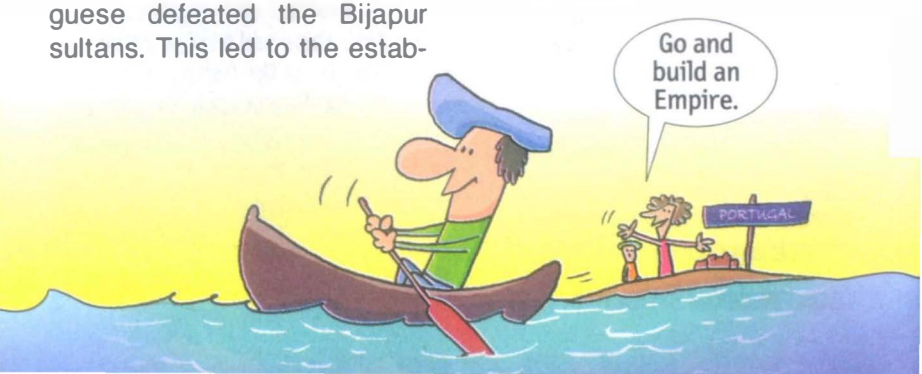
Why was the Portuguese Eastern Empire a mighty one?

The Portuguese Empire was the earliest and longest lived of the modern European colonial empires.

As skilled Portuguese sailors explored the coasts and islands of East Asia, a series of forts and trading posts soon followed, not just in India, but throughout the Asian subcontinent, East Africa, and the Pacific. This was known as the Portuguese Eastern Empire.

It was in 1510 that the Portuguese defeated the Bijapur sultans. This led to the establishment of a permanent settlement in Goa.

It was Goa that became the seat of the Viceroy who governed the Portuguese possessions in Asia in the 16th and 17th centuries. These included several colonies in East Africa including Mozambique, Kilwa, Brava, Sofala, and Mombasa. The might of Portugal also spread to Ethiopia, Brazil, Ceylon, and much of the southern gulf region.



What was 'Dutch India'?

The Dutch were always great seafarers. They arrived in India after the Portuguese, drawn by tales of the wealth and splendour of the land.

Their main purpose was trade. In 1602, the United East India Company of the Netherlands was formed, and given permission by the Dutch government to trade in the East Indies, including India.

The term 'Dutch India' is a term used to refer to the settlements and trading posts of the Dutch East India Company on the Indian subcontinent.

Flag of the Dutch East India Company

The Dutch founded their first factory in Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh in 1605. Later, they also established trading centres in various parts of India, including Surat and Bengal. The major Indian commodities traded by the Dutch were cotton, indigo, silk, rice and opium.

Dutch Vessels- A Painting

Chinsura, The Dutch Settlement at Bengal

What was the extent of Dutch influence on India?

In the 17th and 18th centuries, Dutch presence in India grew, and so did their power.

The Dutch also took Ceylon, (now Sri Lanka) from the Portuguese in 1656 AD. In India, they captured the Portuguese forts on the Malabar Coast. The Dutch gradually became a force to be reckoned with. They took Nagapattinam near Madras from the Portuguese, and established a stronghold in South India.

The Dutch earned huge profits through their business activities. They monopolised the trade in black pepper and spices.

In addition, precious stones, indigo, silk, saltpetre, and opium were also traded.

As their profits grew, they minted their own coins. The mints were located at Cochin, Machilipatnam, Nagapattinam, Pondicherry, and Pulicat.

Dutch Fort - A Painting

When did the Dutch power decline?

In the second half of the 18th century, the Dutch began to lose control of trade in India.

The main reason was the rise of British power in trade with the East. These led to a series of bloody wars with the British. The British emerged the winners because of the huge resources at their disposal. The brutal killing of some English traders by the Dutch in Amboyna in 1623 further aggravated the situation.

The British captured Dutch strongholds one after another. In addition, the Maharajah of Travancore, Marthanda Varma defeated the Dutch East India Company in the Battle of Colachel in 1741. This led to the complete rout of Dutch power in Malabar region. By the middle of 1825, the Dutch had lost their last trading post in India.

Dutch East Indies

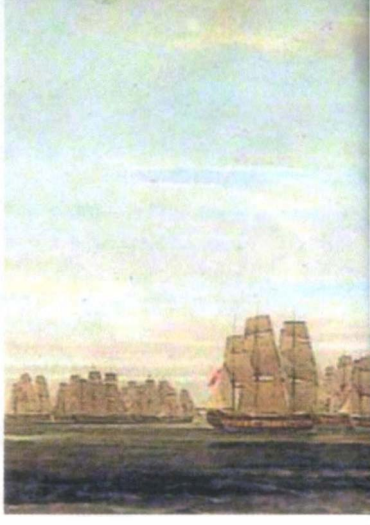
The Dutch East Indies was one of the overseas territories of the Netherlands. It included the 'spice islands' of Southeast Asia, in what is now eastern Indonesia. It was part of a vast Dutch trading empire that stretched across the world.

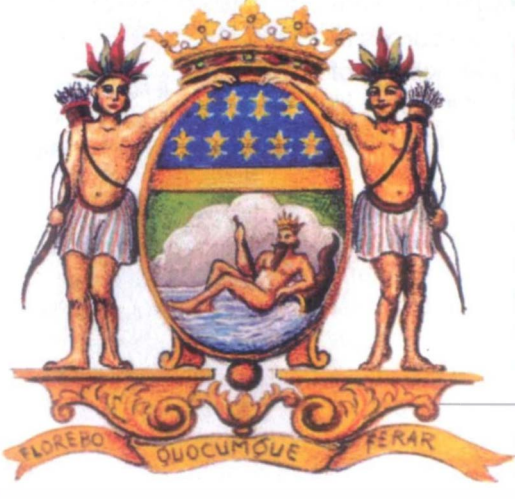
When did the French come to India?

The French were latecomers in India. They arrived in the subcontinent in 1660s, while the other Europeans like Portuguese, Dutch, and English had already spent nearly a century here.

In the beginning of the 17th century, the French East India Company was one of the several companies created to promote Western European trade in Asia, particularly in India.

France came to trade with India only after the other European powers. In fact, it was in 1668 that the French built their first factory in Surat. Soon after, another was set up in Machilipatnam on the eastern coast. In 1673, the company established its headquarters in Pondicherry, and founded Chandernagore on the northeastern coast, north of Calcutta.

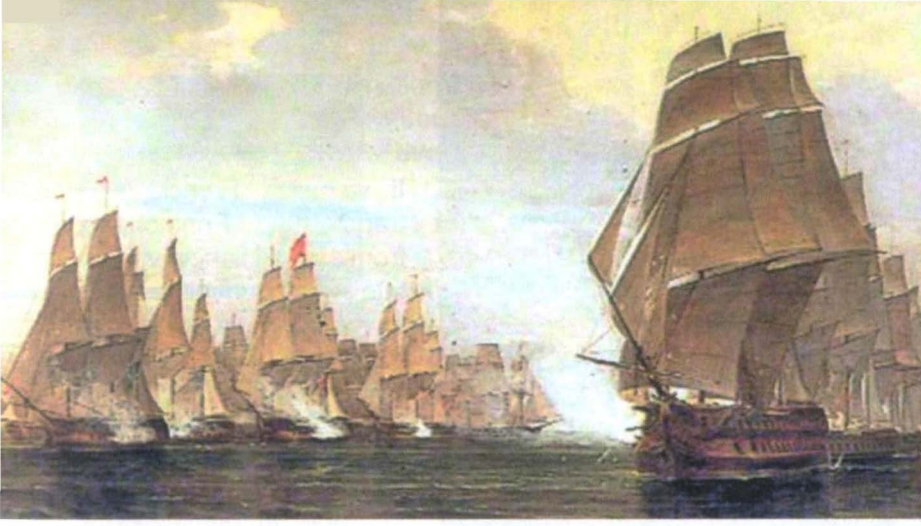




French East India Company's Coat of Arms

What was the importance of Surat in French India?

17th century Surat was a populous and extremely dynamic port town. It was the gateway to Mughal India, and the place to



French Vessels

be for European companies developing commercial links with the East during the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

In 1668, the first French factory was established in Surat. In the beginning, commerce flourished between Surat and France. However, trading activities declined within a few decades after its foundation. Yet the French factory and Consulate of Surat laid the foundation stone of the establishment of French presence in India, and therein lies its importance.

Surat remained the headquarters for the French trading enterprises in India at the earliest stage. Soon, Surat was replaced by Pondicherry, which was later became the headquarters.

French Physician

Francois Bernier was a French physician who travelled throughout the Mughal Empire. He was attached to the court of Shah Jahan, and was a witness to the fierce war of succession among the sons of Shah Jahan.

The French War Memorial - Puducherry

It was the French who transformed Pondicherry from a small fishing village into a flourishing port town, thanks to a series of extremely able French governors.

However, Pondicherry became a part of the conflicts between the French and the English. It was in 1816 that the French gained supremacy over Pondicherry. The French rule in Pondicherry lasted till 1954, when the territory became a part of the Republic of India.

Why was Pondicherry an important part of French India?

The Portuguese and other Europeans were already in Pondicherry (now Puducherry) by the time the French arrived.

The French had been invited to start trading units in Pondicherry by the local ruler. The purpose of the invitation was to raise competition in trade between the Europeans who had already settled in the region.

In 1673, a French officer named Bellanger took up residence there.

James Lancaster, Commander of the First East India Company Voyage in 1601

Why were the British and the French always fighting?

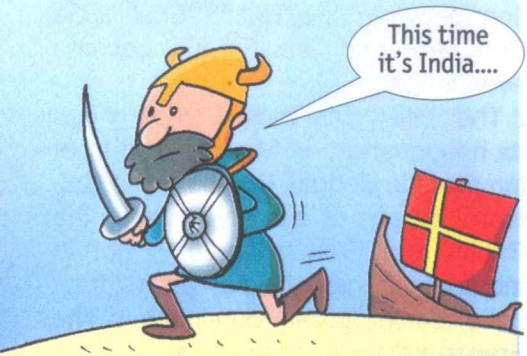
The Europeans who came to India for trade were primarily the Portuguese, Dutch, British, and the French. There was intense competition between them for trading rights.

After the Portuguese, and Dutch exited from the race, the commercial competition between the British East India Company and the French became even fiercer.

The British East India Company had its headquarters in Madras, and trading posts in Bengal, Bombay, and Calcutta. In spite of a treaty between the British and French agreeing not to interfere in regional Indian affairs, their colonial intrigues continued. The French expanded their influence at the court of the Nawab of Bengal, and increased their trading activity in Bengal.

East India House, London

The competition between these two companies for supremacy resulted in a number of conflicts between them as they attacked and conquered each other's forts and towns.



What was the influence of the Danes on Indian history?

The Danes came to India in 1620, and were here for 225 years before finally relinquishing the territories for the strengthening of the English Empire.

Their colonial possessions in India included Tranquebar (now Tharangambadi) in present-day Tamil Nadu state, Serampore in present-day West Bengal, and the Nicobar Islands, currently part of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The Danish colony Tranquebar was established in 1620 on the southern Coromandel Coast in India as headquarters, for the Danish expansion in Asia. During the next two centuries, the Danes built up a colonial town whose special lay-out and historical buildings are still found in Tranquebar.

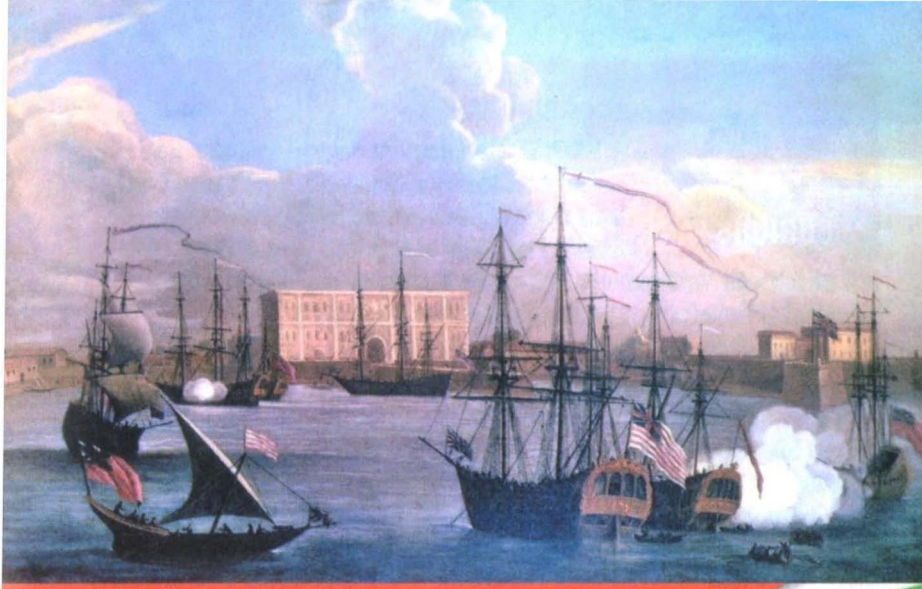
However, Tranquebar was finally sold to the British in 1845, and the Danish presence in India ended.

Fort at Tranquebar

CURIOUS FACT

Royal Dowry

In 1661, the city of Bombay was presented to King Charles II as part of the dowry, when he married Princess Catherine de Braganza of Portugal. King Charles in turn, rented out the whole of Bombay to the East India Company, for just 10 pounds of gold a year!



THE POWER OF THE BRITISH

What was the role of the English East India Company?

At the end of 1600, the British Queen Elizabeth I, allowed a group of merchants to form a trading company. Its purpose was to nurture trade with the East Indies, India, and South East Asia – especially with India, which was famed for its spices.

The Portuguese were already making huge profits in this field, and Britain too wanted a share. The name of the new company was 'The Honourable Company of Merchants of London trading into the East Indies', but this was shortened to the English East India Company.

The company became very powerful, and was soon accounting for more than half of the world's trade, particularly in basic commodities including cotton, silk, indigo dye, salt, saltpetre, tea, and opium. In India it ruled large areas at one time, and even had its own army!

English Khan

In 1607, William Hawkins set sail for India. He commanded the ship 'Hector' for the English East India Company, and arrived in Surat in August 1608. Hawkins was able to acquire a footing in the court of Jahangir. In the course of time, he became so intimate with the Mughal Emperor that Jahangir called him the English Khan.

Statue of Robert Clive

How did the English East India Company come to dominate parts of India?

In 1615, Sir Thomas Roe of the English East India Company approached the Mughal Emperor Jahangir. He asked for permission to build a factory in Surat for trading purposes, and was granted it.

Within ten years, another factory was opened in Bombay. It became the headquarters of the Company. The Company divided India into three Presidencies- Bombay, Bengal, and Madras.

The company exchanged English gold and silver coins for Indian goods. They then sold these goods in China, and made huge profits.

In 1757, Robert Clive led the English East India Company's army to victory over the army of the Nawab

of Bengal. Other victories over local rulers followed, and the British East India Company was transformed from an association of traders into the rulers of large parts of India.

Why is the Battle of Plassey important?

The Battle of Plassey took place on 23rd June 1757, at Plassey, a small village near Calcutta. It was fought between Siraj- ud- Daulah, the Nawab of Bengal, and the British army, led by Robert Clive.

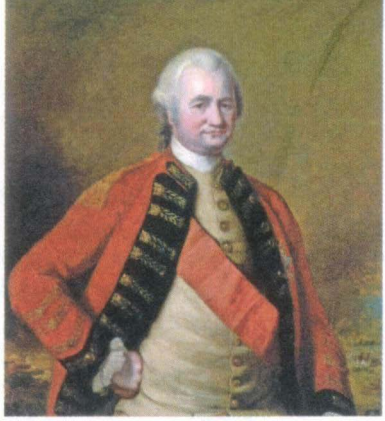
The reason for the battle was the attack on British-controlled Calcutta by the Nawab. Before the fighting started, Robert Clive bribed Mir Jafar, the commander in chief of the Nawab's army, and also promised to make him Nawab of Bengal if he changed sides during the battle, and joined the British.

As a result, the battle lasted only a few hours, and though the British were vastly outnumbered, they won easily. The British now had a large amount of influence over the new Nawab.

The Battle of Plassey is significant in that it established the military might of the British and also the beginning of the rule of the English East India Company over India.

Robert Clive and Mir Jafar - After the Battle of Plassey

Hector Munro



Robert Clive

Why was the Battle of Buxar a significant one?

The Battle of Buxar was fought between the army of the English East India Company and the combined forces of Mughal Emperor, the Nawab of Bengal, and the Nawab of Oudh.

The battle took place on 22nd October 1764 at Buxar in Bengal territory. The English East India Company's army, led by Hector Munro, won a decisive victory. The victory at Buxar allowed the British to extend their domination up to Allahabad. It ended the era of independent nawabs in Bengal.

The Nawab of Oudh also turned to a submissive ally, and the Mughal Emperor was reduced to living on an allowance from the Company. The Battle flagged off the Company's domination in the north. It can be said that the seeds of British imperialism sown at Plassey, flowered after the Battle of Buxar.

Carnatic War

The coastal Carnatic region was a dependency of Hyderabad in the 18th century. There were three Carnatic wars fought here between 1746 and 1763.

What was the aftermath of the Carnatic Wars?

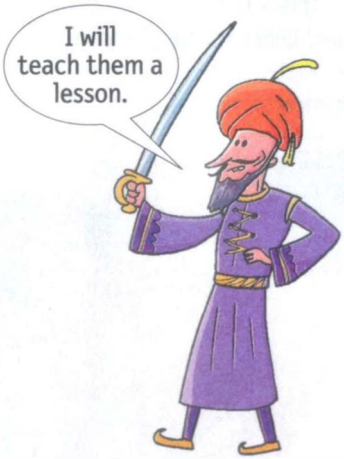
Between 1744 and 1763, the British and the French were involved in two wars in Europe. At the same time, British and French trade interests clashed in South India, in a series of wars known as the Carnatic Wars.

These wars were mainly fought on the territories in India which were dominated by the Nizam of Hyderabad, up to the Godavari delta. At first, the Nawabs of the Carnatic did not like the Anglo-French conflicts within their kingdom. They tried to punish the offenders, but soon realised that militarily, they were no match for the foreigners.

By the end of the Third Carnatic War, the British East India Company had established its domination over the French, who were confined to Pondicherry. The aftermath of the Carnatic Wars was that it was now the English East India Company that ruled over most of India.

Battle of Srirangapatnam

Tipu Sultan on the Battle Field



What were the Anglo Mysore Wars?

The Anglo Mysore Wars were a series of wars fought in South India between the Kingdom of Mysore, and the English East India Company.

Mysore was a powerful state under its ruler Haider Ali. In 1767, the first Anglo-Mysore war was fought, in which Haider Ali defeated the British, and occupied almost the whole of the Carnatic region.

The Second Anglo Mysore war was fought when the British, under Warren Hastings, occupied Mahe, which was in Haider Ali's territory. In July 1781, Haider Ali was defeated. After his death in 1782, his son Tipu Sultan, also known as the Tiger of Mysore, carried on the conflict. The Third War was fought between Tipu Sultan and the British. It began in 1790, and ended in Tipu's defeat in 1792.

In the Fourth war, the British army led by Lord Wellesley attacked and defeated Tipu Sultan in a brief but fierce war. Tipu Sultan met a heroic death on 4th May 1799, while defending his capital.

With his defeat and death, most of South India too came under the control of the English East India Company.

Anglo Maratha War

How did the Maratha Wars help the British?

The Maratha Wars were three wars fought between 1775 and 1819. The First War was actually a civil war between the Marathas themselves. The British utilised this opportunity. They supported the winning side, and gained a small island near Bombay.

The Second and Third Wars were fought between the British and the Maratha armies. In the second Maratha War, the British won, and in the period between 1803 and 1805, three major treaties were signed between the Maratha Empire and the British Empire, in which the British got back many of the Indian territories.

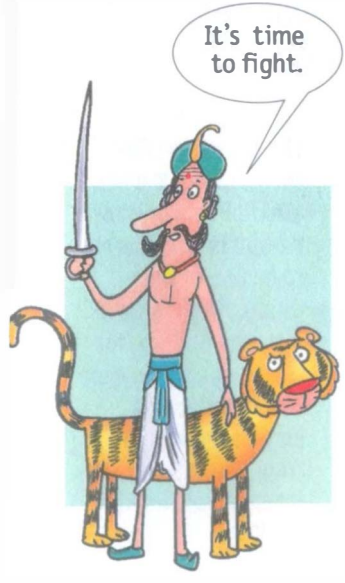
The Third and final Maratha War led to the complete downfall, and end of the Maratha Empire in India. As a result, almost the whole of India came under the control of the British East India Company.

STAR FACT

Peshwa Madhavrao

The Peshwas were the rulers of the Marathas. Peshwa Madhavrao is considered to be one of the greatest Peshwas in Maratha history, for it was during his time that the Maratha Empire recovered from the defeats suffered in earlier wars.

THE TRIGGER FOR THE STRUGGLE



What were some of the early signs of discontent against the British?

By 1856, the British rule in most parts of India was firmly established. However, soon there was discontent among the local rulers, the ordinary people, the peasants, and also the Indian soldiers in the British army.

This led to a series of rebellions in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Puli Thevar, a chieftain in what is now Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu was one of the first rulers in India to resist the British. Another freedom fighter was Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja, of Malabar. He led the tribal people in a guerilla war against the British, but was defeated and his fort was razed to the ground.

Veerapandya Kattabomman, a ruler from the South refused to accept the sovereignty of the British and fought against them. He was captured and hanged by the British. In 1817, a rebellion broke out against British rule under the leadership of the King of Khurda.

Although all these early rebellions failed, they were the torchbearers, lighting the way for the fight for Indian independence.

What was the significance of the First War of Independence?

The great uprising of 1857 that started in Meerut and spread rapidly to other parts of India, is popularly known as India's First War of Independence.

On the 29th of March, a brave Indian soldier or sepoy, in the British army named Mangal Pandey dared to defy the British Empire, and this led to what the British called the Sepoy Mutiny. The reasons behind the uprising were many- the low wages of Indian soldiers, and racial discrimination and insensitivity to the cultural and religious sentiments of the Indians.

The final straw was the introduction of the new Enfield P-53 rifle which used bullets believed to be greased with pork and cow's fat. To load the rifle, sepoys had to bite the cartridge open, and this offended the religious sentiments of both Hindus and Muslims.

It was the greatest armed challenge to colonial rule during the entire course of the 19th century. Its success lay in that it triggered demands for radical social reforms.

The Revolt of 1857 - A Painting

Mangal Pandey

Our Hero

Mangal Pandey is a hero to generations of Indians. Movies have been made about him, and a postage stamp has been issued in his honour.

Why is Mangal Pandey considered a martyr?

Mangal Pandey was a soldier or sepoy in the British Army. He has gone down in history as the courageous rebel who sparked the First War of Indian Independence in 1857.

The rising was, literally, triggered by a gun, the Pattern 1853 Enfield rifle musket. To load the new rifle, soldiers had to bite the cartridge, open and pour the gunpowder into the rifle's muzzle.

The Indian soldiers heard that the cartridges were greased with pork and cow's fat. The usage of which was against the religious sentiments of both Muslims and Hindus.

They were outraged, and rebelled against the lack of sensitivity and high-handedness of the Englishmen.

Pandey attacked and injured his British sergeant, besides wounding an adjutant. He was arrested, and sentenced to death. Mangal Pandey was hanged on 8th April 1857. He died for his beliefs, and

is honoured as a martyr. His biggest contribution to the Indian freedom struggle is that he inspired patriots to sacrifice everything for their beliefs and the motherland.

What was the course of the First War of Independence?

On 24th April 1857, eighty-five Indian soldiers refused to handle the bullets for a new rifle, which they believed were greased with pig and cow fat. They were arrested, court-martialed and sentenced to ten years hard labour each.

On 9th May, at an appalling ceremony in the parade ground of Meerut, these soldiers were publicly humiliated. The following day, Meerut exploded. Enraged soldiers broke open the town jail, and released their comrades. A mob from the bazaar and Indian soldiers poured into the cantonment where the Britons lived, and killed many of them.

Then, these soldiers marched towards Delhi. They asked the Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah

'Suppression of the Indian Revolt'- A Painting

II, to become their leader and reclaim his throne, and he agreed. Revolts broke out in other parts of Northern India as well. The British, who were initially taken by surprise, recovered quickly, and responded forcefully. The rebellion was crushed, but the torch of freedom had been lit.

What was the immediate impact of the First War of Indian Independence?

Though the First War of Indian Independence failed, and was crushed by the superior military force of the British, it was a milestone in Indian history.

It had far-reaching consequences in the history of British colonial rule. To begin with, it led to the dissolution of the British East India Company in 1858. India came directly under the rule of the British Government, which was forced to reorganise the army, the financial structure, and administrative system in India.

Indians were assured of better governance and more respect for their culture and traditions. The policy of ruthless annexation of Indian princely states was given up. But most importantly, the First War of Indian Independence was the inspiration for the Freedom Movement in India.

What was the role of Rani Lakshmibai in our Freedom Movement?

Rani Lakshmibai was the ruler of Jhansi, a princely state in North India. She played a leading role in the First War of Independence, and became a symbol of resistance to the arrogant rule of the British East India Company.

After her husband's death, the British refused to accept her young son as the next ruler, since he was adopted. She was ordered to hand over Jhansi to the Company, but she refused.

Rani Lakshmibai organised an army to defend Jhansi, and when the First War of Independence broke out, she joined the rebels. She led her soldiers in full warrior regalia, fought bravely and determinedly, but was killed in the battle.

Rani Lakshmibai

Her unquenchable spirit, courage, and self respect gave the British sleepless nights. The story of the guts and sacrifice of this 19th century warrior queen is truly an inspiration for all Indians.

Different

Rani Lakshmibai's mother died when she was only 4 years old. She was educated at home, and her studies included shooting, horsemanship, and fencing.

Another Painting on the First War of Independence

Who were the other great leaders of the First War of Indian Independence?

The First War of Independence had many heroes. Nana Sahib, the legal heir to the throne of Kanpur, fought for freedom, along with Rani Lakshmibai.

Tantya Tope, an expert in guerilla warfare, was a loyal follower of Nana Sahib, and one of the most respected leaders in the rebellion. Another formidable queen, Begum Hazrath Mahal, fought with desperate courage for the defence of Lucknow.

At the age of 80, Kanwar Singh valiantly led his troops in Bihar against the British. Maulavi Ahmedulla of Faizabad proved a hard nut to crack for the British. Hikmathullah Khan, Deputy Collector of Fatehpur quit his job, to fight for the freedom of Fatehpur in 1857.

Along with many others, these are the names we should remember with gratitude, for the sacrifices they made so that we may live in freedom today.

Brave Women

A commemorative stamp was issued by the Government of India honouring Begum Hazrat Mahal in 1984. Along with the Rani of Jhansi, Begum Hazrat Mahal remains one of the first women war heroes of India.

What was the Santhal Rebellion?

The Santhal Rebellion was one of the most serious challenges faced by the British in the first century of its rule.

The Santhals were freedom-loving people who lived in what is now present day Jharkhand. However, the atrocities they had to put up with, both from the landlords, and the East India Company, led to an armed revolt by them.

In June, 1855 four brothers, Sidhu and Kanhu, Chand and Bhairav gave a call for rebellion. The infuriated Santhals attacked the houses of moneylenders and zamindars. Their slogan was destruction of zamindars, moneylenders and the British rulers.

The rebellion continued for a few months, and though it received a lot of support from the local people, the military might of the British finally brought it to a crushing defeat. However, the fire of freedom lit by the Santhals continued to blaze in the hearts of the people.

Santhal Rebellion

What was the Kuka Movement?

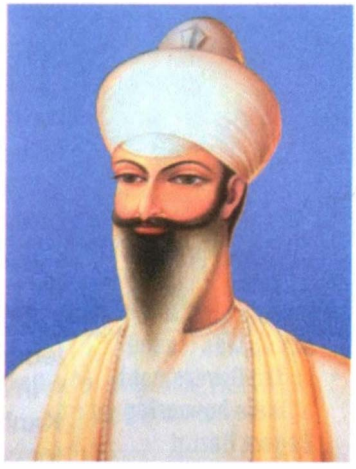
The founder of the Kuka Movement was believed to be Bhagat Jawahar Mal. It started as a religious movement with a view to reforming the Sikh religion.

The Kuka Movement sought to abolish the caste system in the Sikhism, and create a society based on equality. It advocated woman's freedom, and discouraged non-vegetarianism.

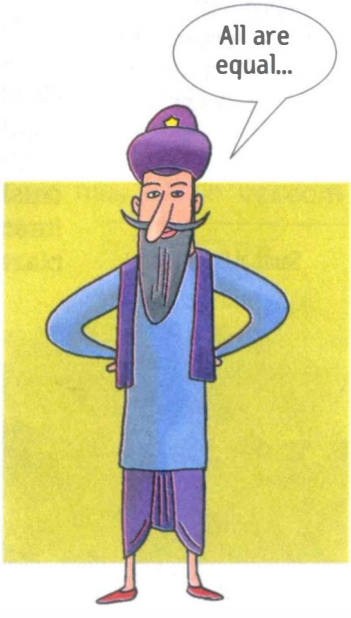
In time, the Kuka Movement turned into a political struggle against the British. Ram Singh Kuka, one of the famous leaders of the Kuka Movement, believed in the policy of non-cooperation with the British. He gave a call to his followers to boycott British goods, government schools, and government posts.

As the movement picked up momentum, the British reacted violently, crushed the movement, and killed many Kuka freedom fighters. Ram Singh, known to his followers as Satguru, gave a call to his followers for boycott of British goods. He was deported by the British to Burma, where he died in 1885.

The Kuka Revolt is also known as the Namdhari Movement.



Satguru Ram Singh Kuka



Well Earned Honour

Birsa Munda is an important figure in the history of the Indian Independence Movement. He is the only tribal leader whose portrait hangs in the Central Hall of the Indian Parliament- a well earned honour.

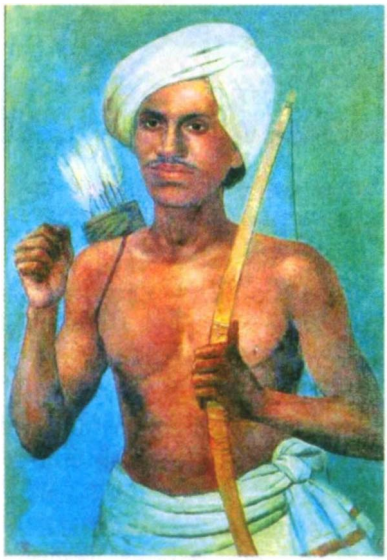
Who was Birsa Munda?

The colonisation of what is now known as the Jharkhand region by the East India Company resulted in spontaneous resistance from the local tribes.

In fact, the tribals frequently engaged the British in armed struggle in order to take control of their lands. Birsa Munda was a tribal leader and folk hero belonging to the Munda tribe.

The 'Ulgulan'- meaning 'great tumult' was a revolt spearheaded by Birsa Munda, which created panic among the British.

Though the revolt initially started in the Munda, it soon spread to other areas. It was also the last organised armed tribal revolt in Jharkhand. Birsa Munda's forces fought long and hard. However, they were no match for the superior firepower of the British. The revolt was quelled, and Birsa was killed - a martyr to the cause of freedom.



Birsa Munda

Swami Vivekananda

LIGHTS IN DARKNESS

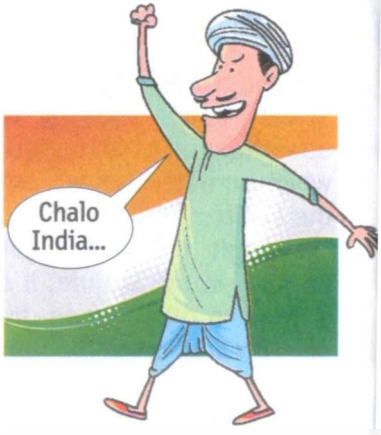
What were the reforms in India during the 19th century?

In 19th century, India witnessed a series of social and religious reforms that contributed to the rise of nationalism.

The central figure of this awakening was Raja Rammohan Roy, a great patriot, scholar, and humanist who founded the Brahmo Samaj. He fought relentlessly against social evils like sati, polygamy, and caste discrimination.

Religious leaders like Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa and Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo, Sister Nivedita, and Swami Dayananda Saraswathi, founder of the Arya Samaj, all proclaimed the essential oneness of all religions.

In addition, great men like Subramanya Bharathy, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Rabindranath Tagore and Dadabhai Naoroji also played a role in making Indians proud of their heritage and determined to preserve it at all costs.



Raja Ram Mohan Roy

What was the role played by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in the revival of Indian nationalism?

Raja Ram Mohan Roy was a great social reformer, and one of the architects of modern India. He was a staunch supporter of the theory of oneness of God, and he was totally against caste rigidity, polygamy, sati, and superstitions.

In order to give practical shape to his ideals, and to take them to the people, he founded Brahmo Samaj. Raja Ram Mohan Roy had a profound influence in the fields of politics, public administration, and education as well as religion.

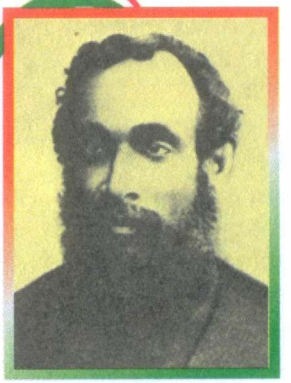
He forced the British government to provide equality to the people of India in getting appointments in the administration, and in the army.

He also made some serious efforts to free the print media from the control of the government, and to uphold freedom of thought. All these reforms helped the leaders of the national movement to march forward on the path to independence.

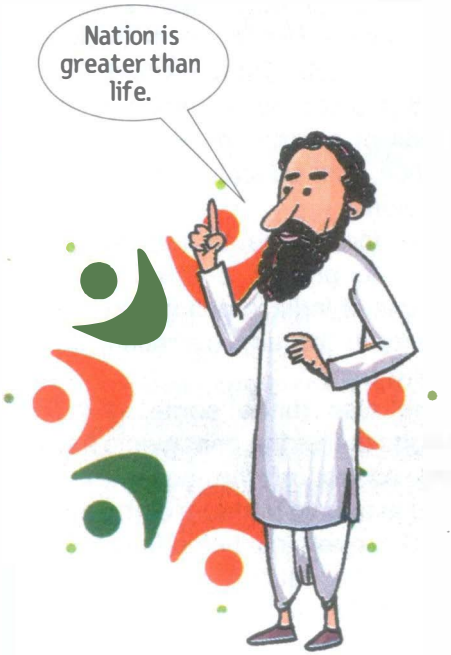
CURIOUS FACT

Raja Street

Raja Ram Mohan Roy won the admiration of the British for the social and religious reforms that he brought about. To honour him, they even named a street 'Raja Ram Mohan Way'.



Surendranath Banerjee



Who were some of the important leaders of the nationalist movement in India?

There were many luminaries who laid the foundations of the nationalist movement in India.

The first nationalist organisation in British India was the Indian National Association. It was founded in 1876 in Calcutta by Surendranath Banerjee, and Ananda Mohan Bose. Its purpose was to inspire and unite educated Indians, to represent their views, and take action together.

The spirit of nationalism was ignited in the common man through the Swadeshi Movement. This movement had stalwarts like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal, and Aurobindo Ghosh at its helm. It represented the demands of the Indians to the British through petitions to the government.

At the same time, there were also leaders who believed that the road to freedom lay not in peaceful agitations, but through a revolution.

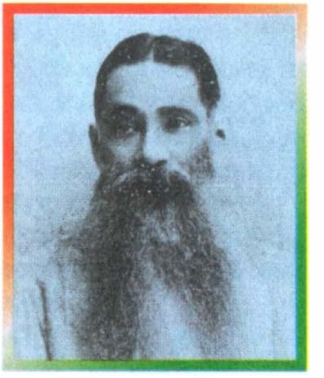
Why was the formation of the Indian National Congress a landmark in Indian history?

The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885. It was the result of the effort of a number of educated Indians who were highly discontented with the exploitative nature of the British rule. In the beginning, its objective was to get a bigger share in government for enlightened Indians.

Inspired by A.O. Hume, a retired British civil servant, seventy three delegates met in Bombay for the first time. The first president of the Indian National Congress, or INC, was W. C. Banerjee. As time passed, the nature of the INC changed, and it became very active in the movement for Indian independence.

After independence, the Congress, which was till then a national movement, became a political party.

A.O. Hume



W. C. Banerjee

Two Ideologies

At the Surat Session of the INC in 1907, Congress leaders were divided into two groups – the moderates and the extremists. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was the leader of the extremists. Gopal Krishna Gokhale was the leader of the moderates.

Chapekar Brothers

The three brothers of the Chapekar family became martyrs to the cause of freedom. Damodar, Balkrishna, and Vasudev were hanged for killing a British official, W.C. Rand.

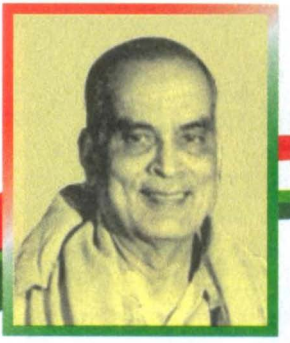
Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Why was Bal Gangadhar Tilak one of the heroes of the freedom struggle?

Bal Gangadhar Tilak joined the other freedom fighters in their struggle for independence. He was the first Indian nationalist to embrace Swaraj or freedom from British rule, as the destiny of the nation.

Tilak sparked the spirit of freedom among the people through his two weekly newspapers. In 1905, he called for a boycott of British goods, and started a campaign of passive resistance to British rule aimed at preparing the people for independence. He was arrested and imprisoned, and soon acquired the status of a hero among the masses.

It was Tilak who raised the famous slogan, 'Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it...' words that continue to inspire Indians to this very day.



Bipin Chandra Pal

Lala Lajpat Rai

Who were the patriots referred to as Lal, Bal and Pal?

The names Lal, Bal and Pal refer to three great patriots, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Bipin Chandra Pal. They led the movement for Indian independence in the early 20th century, and launched the Swadeshi Movement. The three leaders changed the political discourse of the Independence movement.

This movement called for a boycott of all foreign goods and the use of only Indian goods. The three patriots organised demonstrations and strikes against the British.

The movement started in Bengal, but Lal, Bal, and Pal were able to reach out to Indians across the country.

British goods were burnt at public places. Women stopped wearing foreign bangles. Foreign goods like sugar and cloth were given up.

Above all, the people of India rediscovered the pride of self-reliance.

What was Gopal Krishna Gokhale's role in the freedom struggle?

Gopal Krishna Gokhale was widely respected because of his knowledge and intellect. He was, in fact, considered to be the political guru of the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

Gokhale was one of the first Indians who completed graduation. Higher education made him understand the importance of liberty, democracy, and parliamentary system.

One of the founders of the Indian independence movement, he was a social reformer who constantly raised his voice against the policies of the British government. His efforts ensured that Indians had access to seats of the highest authority within the government.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale

He was a writer, and through his articles he tried to awaken our pride in our motherland and the hunger for liberty. Gopal Krishna Gokhale was instrumental in setting India on the path to freedom.

What was the significance of the partition of Bengal?

In 1905, Lord Curzon, the British Viceroy decided that Bengal should be partitioned into two. Though the British claimed that this drastic step was taken for administrative purposes, the real motive was to curb

the growth of nationalism in Bengal.

The Bengalis believed that the British wanted to drive a wedge between the Bengali speaking Hindus and Muslims. They accused the British of trying to destroy the solidarity of the Bengali people. The partition of Bengal raised a great political storm in India. Grounds were prepared for a country-wide agitation.

The Indian National Congress and the nationalists of Bengal firmly opposed it. The partition led to a widespread agitation which assumed the shape of a national movement. This movement became famous in history as the Swadeshi Movement.

Lord Curzon

STAR FACT

Milestone

After the partition of Bengal, the All India Muslim League was founded in 1906. Its purpose was to safeguard and promote the political interests of Indian Muslims.

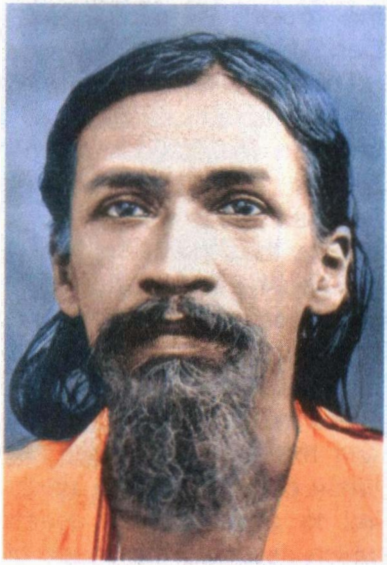
How did the partition of Bengal result in the Swadeshi Movement?

Though the partition of Bengal was in 1905, the partition proposals had been in the public eye as early as 1903.

The strong sense of unity among Bengalis, as well as the cultural development of 19th century, and the spread of western education all gave birth to a vehement resistance to the idea of dividing Bengal.

The Swadeshi Movement had its roots in this anti-partition movement. Its chief architects were Aurobindo Ghosh, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, and Lala Lajpat Rai.

The Swadeshi Movement began as an economic boycott of all foreign goods and the promotion of domestic production and manufacturing processes. Later on, the economic boycott receded into background with the passage of time, and it developed into an idea of non-cooperation with the British in every field.



Aurobindo Ghosh

What was the Home Rule Movement?

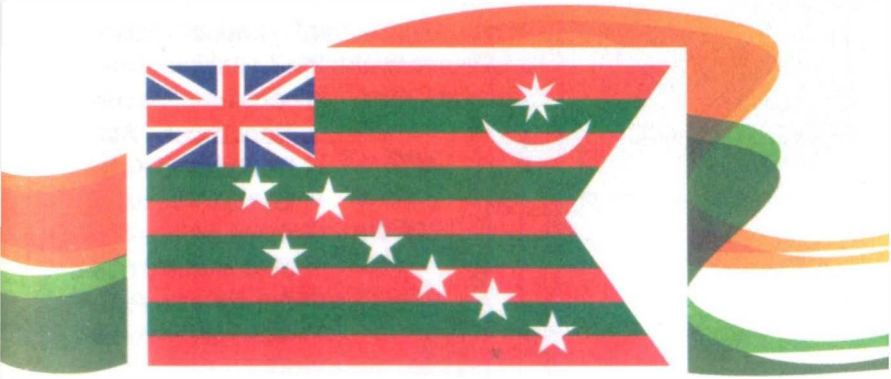
Between 1916 and 1918, prominent Indian leaders and patriots decided to organise a national alliance of leagues across India, specifically to demand home rule.

The Home Rule Movement was aimed at bringing about self-government for India in the British Empire, as well to work towards national education, and political reforms.

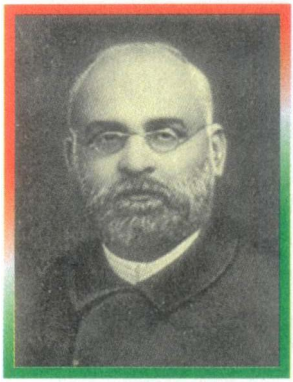
In 1916, two Home Rule Movements were launched in the country. The first was under the leadership of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and the second was under Annie Besant. Tilak popularised the demand for Home Rule through his lectures. Annie Besant was a British theosophist, writer, and orator who supported Indian and Irish home rule.

The Home Rule League set up by her organised discussions and lectures and set up reading rooms. It also distributed pamphlets educating people of what they sought to achieve through this movement.

Annie Besant



Flag of Home Rule Movement



Shyamji Krishna Varma

Surya Sen

Who were some of the early revolutionaries in the freedom struggle?

Not all the freedom fighters believed in moderation and non-cooperation. There were many unsung heroes who believed that freedom could be attained only through a revolution- and who were willing to die for their motherland.

From Shyamji Krishna Varma to V.D. Savarkar, from Madam Cama to Surya Sen, these patriots were just a few of the many who believed that the British could be overthrown only by force.

In fact, though the Indian National Congress played a key role in the Indian Independence Movement, the impact of revolutionary organisations cannot be denied.

The revolutionary groups included organisations like the Anushilan Samiti, Jugantar, the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, and Kotwal Dasta. Some of these groups operated underground, but were nevertheless very efficient.

Which were some of the revolutionary organisations helping the freedom struggle from outside India?

The cause of Indian freedom was taken up by revolutionary organisations outside India as well.

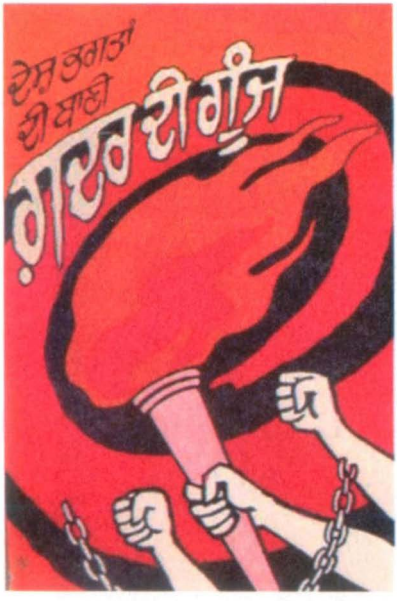
Between 1905 and 1910, Shyamji Krishna Varma founded India House in London. Here, Indian students worked for the nationalist cause, and before long, India House became the focal point of intellectual and political activities, as well as revolutionary Indian nationalism.

Another such organisation was the Ghadar Party, a predominantly Sikh organisation, that helped revolutionaries in India obtain arms and ammunition.

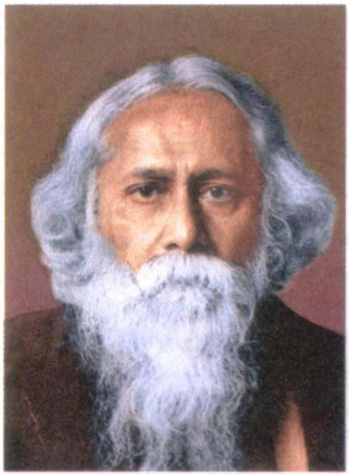
The German Foreign office also lent a helping hand to revolutionaries through The Berlin Committee for Indian Independence that was founded by Virendra Nath Chattopadhya, Bhupendra Nath Dutt, and Lala Hardayal.

Kakori Train Robbery

The Kakori Train Robbery was planned and executed on 9th August 1925 by members of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. Money from the government treasury was looted from the mail train at Kakori, near Lucknow.

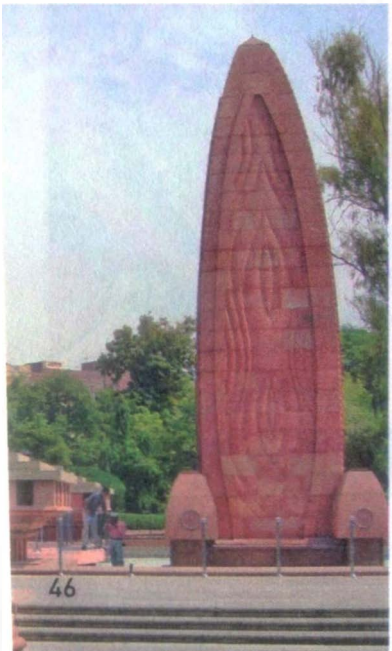


Poster of Ghadar Party



Rabindranath Tagore

Jallianwala Bagh Memorial



How did the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre lead to the rise of revolutionary groups?

The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre involved the killing of hundreds of unarmed defenceless Indians by a senior British military officer on 13th April 1919.

It took place in the heart of Amritsar, the holiest of Sikh cities. As those killed were being carried through the streets, angry mobs retaliated by going on a rampage. These were followed by widespread protests across a grieving country.

The great poet Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood in protest against the inhuman cruelty of the British Government to the people of Punjab. But not all protests were symbolic, or peaceful.

The people's anger could not be contained, and many Indians became convinced that the British had to be paid back in

their own coin- that violence had to be met with violence.

This in turn, led to the formation of revolutionary groups ready to fight and free India from the tyranny of the British.

What was the Simon Commission?

The Non-cooperation Movement, launched by Mahatma Gandhi, won huge support from the people of India, and this shook the British authorities badly.

So, the British Government sent the Simon Commission to India in 1928 to suggest reforms in the structure of Indian government. The commission headed by Sir John Simon, had no Indian member. This was a shock to India.

Congress decided to boycott the Commission on the grounds that Indians were not thought fit to be included in it. Resentment and suspicion were not confined to the Congress circles alone.

The boycott soon turned into an agitation against the Commission. When it arrived in Lahore, it was met by protestors waving black flags. The crowds were lathi charged, and Lala Lajpat Rai, also called Sher-e-Punjab or the Lion of Punjab died of the blows received during the agitation.

Lala Lajpat Rai

Letter of Pride

While returning his knighthood, Rabindranath Tagore declared in his letter: 'The time has come when badges of honour make our shame glaring in the incongruous context of humiliation...'

Bhagat Singh in Jail

Bhagat Singh

Why will Bhagat Singh be honoured for all time by Indians?

Bhagat Singh was a national hero who gave a new wave to the revolutionary movement in India. To spread the message of revolution in Punjab, Bhagat formed a union of revolutionaries by the name 'Naujawan Bharat Sabha'.

Along with Chandrasekhar Azad, he later founded the 'Hindustan Samajvadi Prajatantra Sangha'. When Lala Rajpat Rai died because of the brutality of the British police, Bhagat Singh vowed to avenge his death. He was determined to kill the British official named General Scott who was responsible for the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.

However, he killed assistant superintendent Saunders by mistake. Bhagat Singh was also responsible for a bomb blast in the Central Legislative Assembly on 8th April 1929.

Bhagat Singh was captured, and was sentenced to death on 23rd March, 1931. At the tender age of 23, he became a martyr for the cause of India's freedom, and his sacrifice will forever be remembered by a grateful nation.

Chandrasekhar Azad

Unsung Hero

Jatin Das was a revolutionary freedom fighter. He went on a hunger strike with Bhagat Singh and other revolutionary freedom fighters.
On the 63rd day of his hunger strike, he died. He is one of the unsung heroes of our freedom struggle.

Why is Chandrasekhar Azad is considered one of the heroes of the Freedom Movement?

Chandrasekhar Azad was a revolutionary, freedom fighter, and close associate of Bhagat Singh. He was a firebrand who terrorised the British with his bravery and guerilla tactics.

The turning point in his life came during the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar in 1919. This incident left him shell-shocked, and filled his heart with anger and hatred for English rulers.

When he was caught by British police, and was presented before the magistrate, he was asked his name. In response, he said 'Azad' meaning independence. Since that day, Chandrashekhar assumed the title of Azad, and was known as Chandrashekhar Azad.

Chandrasekhar Azad carried out several attacks on British officials, including the famous Kakori Train Robbery in 1925, and the assassination of J.P. Saunders in 1928.

Azad became the most wanted freedom fighter for British police. When he was finally

tracked down, he kept fighting courageously, and killed three policemen. But his ammunition soon got over, and he shot himself in the head with his last bullet. He preferred to die rather than being caught by the British.

Why is Veer Savarkar considered an extraordinary man?

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar popularly known as Veer Savarkar, occupies a prominent place in the history of India's struggle for freedom. He was passionate about winning freedom from British rule, and boycotting foreign goods.

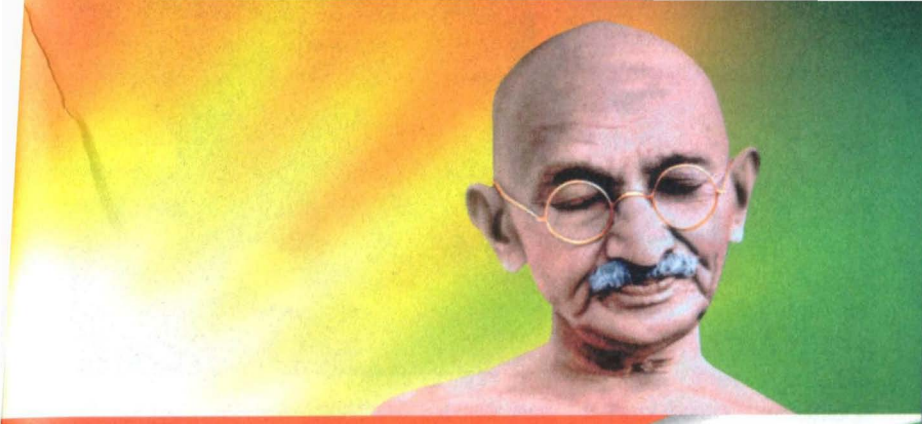
In 1906, he went to London to study law. He founded the Free India Society in England, and advocated the use of arms to free India from the British. Veer Savarkar created a network of Indians in England, equipped with weapons. In 1908, Savarkar completed 'The Indian War of Independence', and the book was banned by the British. He was arrested in London on 13th March 1910, on some trumped up charges. The case against him was to be heard by a court in India.

During his journey to India, as the ship neared Marseilles in France, he jumped through the porthole, and swam to the shore. He was captured, and sentenced to 50 years rigorous life imprisonment on the Andaman Islands.

Veer Savarkar

However, in 1921, he was released from the jail, and spent the rest of his life as a social worker.

He was a bold warrior, poet, philosopher, and a great patriot.



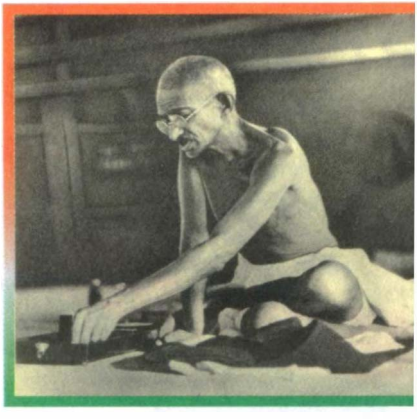
A NEW ERA

Which is the first name one associates with the freedom movement?

Mahatma Gandhi- or Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi- is the first person one thinks of among the leaders of the freedom struggle. He was a lawyer who began his career in South Africa, where he got involved in the Indian community's struggle for civil rights there.

This laid the foundation for his return to India in 1915, where he started organising the struggle against British rule. He also led nationwide campaigns for social reform, whether it was easing the burden of crushing poverty, ending untouchability, promoting women's rights, or promoting religious harmony.

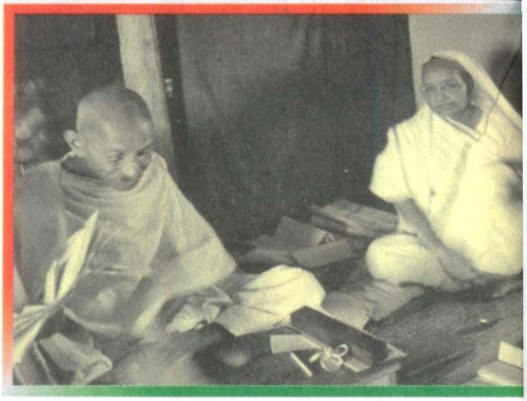
Above all, Mahatma Gandhi will be forever remembered for his vision of a Free India, for his courage and determination, and for the inspiring path he chose to achieve this goal.



How were Gandhiji's methods different from that of usual revolutionary leaders?

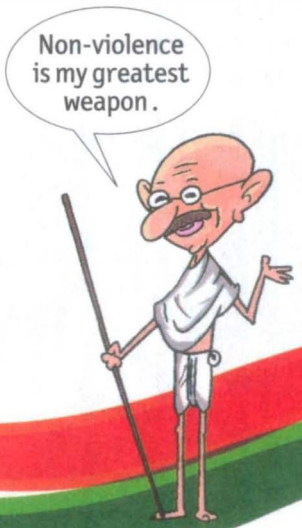
Throughout the world, people have always won freedom from oppression through violence and bloodshed.

Gandhiji introduced a new path to freedom- the path of ahimsa or non-violence. His vision inspired millions of Indians and they joined him in his dream of an independent India that would be realised through Satyagraha- the non-violent way to victory.



Gandhiji with Kasturba

Gandhiji became the president of the Indian National Congress in 1924, and under his guidance, India stunned the world by taking on the might of the British Empire, not with cannons or gunfire,



Gandhiji with Sarojini Naidu

but through non- cooperation, sacrifice, and nationwide agitations.

India showed the way for other oppressed nations to fight and win freedom through peaceful means.

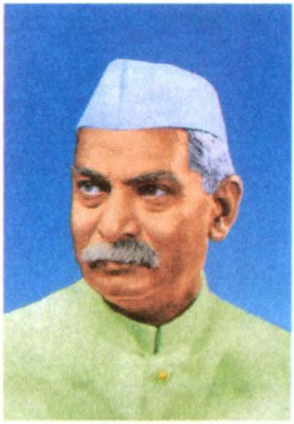
Who were Gandhiji's contemporaries?

Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of non-violence inspired not only the masses, but also many men of great stature to join him in his struggle for freedom.

Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Sarojini Naidu, Rajendra Prasad, C. R. Das, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, and C.F. Andrews were just some of the distinguished contemporaries of Gandhiji.

In Mahatma Gandhi they found a leader who was capable of leading the entire nation because of his inner strength and confidence. The common man adored and identified with him, the intellectuals admired him, the British were totally perplexed by him and did not know how to counter his charisma, his simplicity, and his unyielding determination to stick by his principles.

People were willing to give up everything and follow Gandhiji. Today, we can hold our heads high and walk in freedom because of the sacrifices of these heroes- both renowned and unsung.

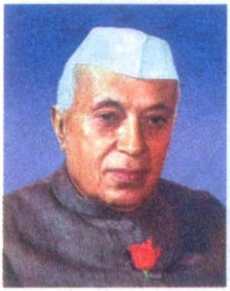


Rajendra Prasad

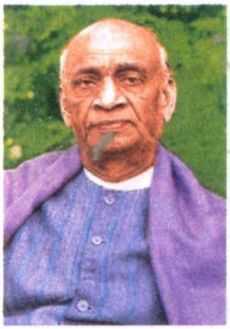
CURIOUS FACT

Marathon Walker

Gandhiji loved walking. He would spread his message of freedom through non-violence by walking everywhere. It is estimated that he must have walked at least 18 km a day for 40 years- enough to circle the Earth twice!



Jawaharlal Nehru



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

How are Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel different?

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, its first deputy prime minister, were two towering figures in India's freedom struggle.

Both were Mahatma Gandhi's closest associates, and had enormous influence within the Congress Party. Yet both were very different from each other. Nehru and Patel's economic views differed drastically. Nehru believed in a socialist India, while Patel believed in free enterprise. They also differed on their views about foreign policy and how to tackle the problems of communalism.

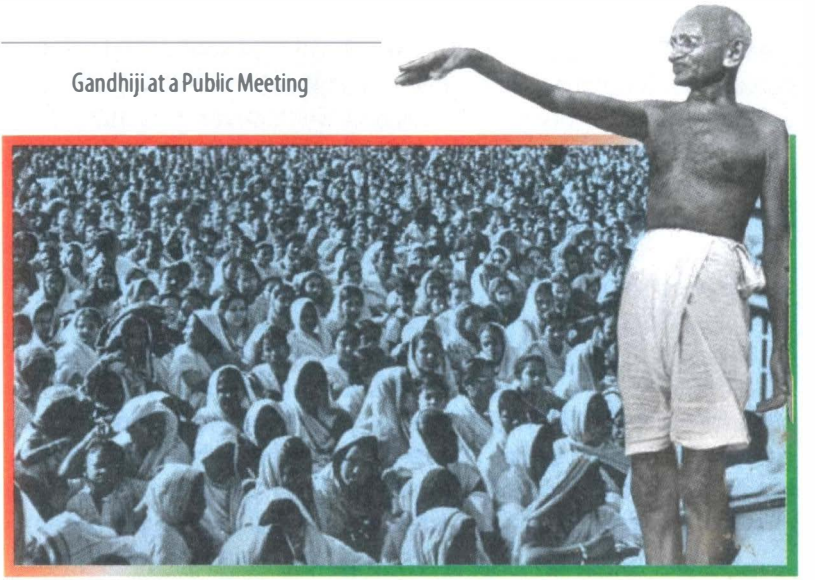
In spite of all this, they worked together as fellow-members of the Congress and colleagues in the Congress Working Committee. They were soldiers in the struggle for freedom, and were both devoted followers of Gandhiji.

Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel shared the great burden of administration of independent India, for which the nation owes them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Legendary

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was one of the legendary figures of India's freedom struggle. He was the first minister of Education in independent India, and has been awarded India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, after his death.

Gandhiji at a Public Meeting



What is the significance of Champaran?

After Gandhiji's return from South Africa, he decided to extend his support to the struggling peasants in Champaran, a district in Bihar. These poor peasants were forced to grow cash crops like indigo for the British, instead of the food crops that they needed to survive. They were paid very low wages and lived in subhuman conditions.

The peasants appealed to Gandhiji for help and he came to Champaran in 1917. Gandhiji visited many villages. This infuriated the British, who asked him to leave. Gandhiji refused, and was willing to face trial and imprisonment. This act of civil disobedience forced the Government to back-

track, and to appoint a committee of enquiry.

Gandhiji was a member of this committee and he was able to bring about many social reforms, including better wages and better living conditions for the peasants of Champaran.

Champaran thus became the first victory for Gandhiji's strategy of opting for civil disobedience to win against the British.

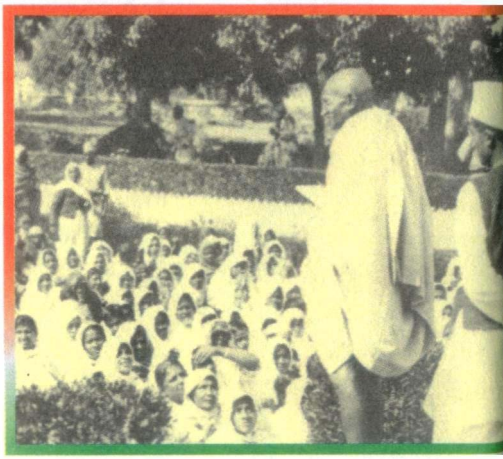
Why is the Kheda Satyagraha famous?

The Kheda Satyagraha was launched in 1918 under the leadership of Gandhiji and Sardar Patel. Kheda in Gujarat was a poverty stricken region that had just suffered a severe famine. The poor farmers who lived there were heavily taxed by the British. Because of the drought, they found it impossible to pay the taxes as their crops had been destroyed.

The British, however, refused to lower the taxes, or give them any concessions whatsoever. Gandhiji, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and other leaders mobilised the farmers and spearheaded a historic revolt against the British. The peasants just refused to pay the taxes. The movement gathered a lot of support from different communities.

The unrelenting government gave directives to confiscate the land that the peasants possessed. Finally, however, British had to bow down to the pressure. They agreed to suspend tax collection for that year, and the next.

The Kheda Satyagraha thus proved to be another victory for Gandhiji's path of non violence and civil disobedience.



MahatmaGandhi Addressing People

Indian Cavalry in World War 1

Indian Soldiers at Somme, France, WW1

STAR FACT

Indian Suffering

As a result of the World War I, India suffered. Thousands of Indians lost their lives, and many more thousands were wounded, fighting for Britain. There was heavy taxation, as the economy went almost bankrupt. In addition, a widespread post war epidemic added to the human suffering.

What was the role of World War I in India's freedom struggle?

India played a significant role in World War I. When the war broke out in 1914, there was growing political unrest in India against the British rule.

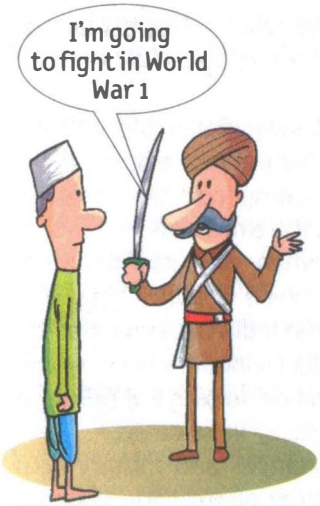
However, when war was declared, India rallied behind Britain. Those with influence within India believed that the cause of Indian independence would best be served by helping out Britain in whatever capacity India could.

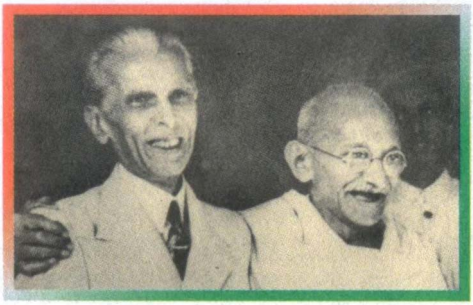
Offers of financial and military help were made from all over the country, especially from the princes. Indian troops were on the Western Front by the winter of 1914, and fought at the first Battle of Ypres.

In total, 10,000,00 Indian troops fought in all the theatres of the war. Of these, 74,187 were classed as killed or

missing, with 67,000 wounded.

India expected to be rewarded with a major move towards independence, or at the least, self-government. When it became obvious that this was not going to happen, the Independence Movement became stronger.





Mohammed Ali Jinnah with Gandhiji

What was the importance of the Lucknow Pact?

The Lucknow Pact was an agreement that was signed in 1916 after both the Congress and the Muslim League realised that they would have to jointly demand self rule for India.

The Congress was led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, while Mohammed Ali Jinnah represented the League. Jinnah was then member of both the League and the Congress, and the chief architect of the pact. In fact, he was hailed as 'the Ambassador of Hindu-Muslim Unity'.

Minto Morley Reforms

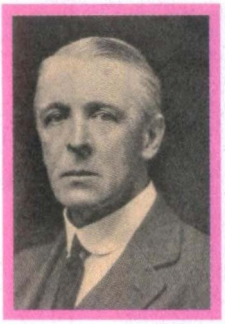
The Indian Councils Act of 1909 was also known as the Minto Morley Reforms. The Act brought about a limited increase in the involvement of Indians in the governance of British India.

The Lucknow Pact also saw the reconciliation between the extremists and the moderate factions of the Indian National Congress. In addition, it witnessed the meeting of two leaders—Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru—for the first time on a platform, which changed the course of Indian politics and history.

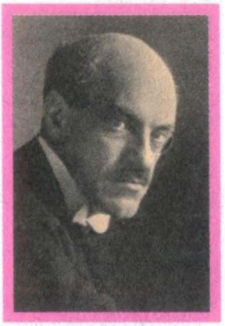
What were the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms?

The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms were the measures taken by the British Government in 1918 to introduce self-governing institutions gradually to India.

The reforms take their name from Edwin Montagu, the British Secretary of State for India at that time, and Lord Chelmsford, the British Viceroy in India from 1916 to 1921.



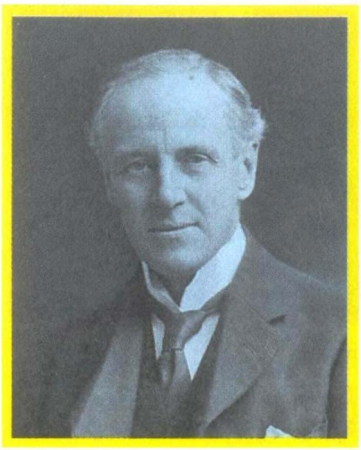
Lord Chelmsford



Edwin Montagu

The reforms introduced the principle of a dual mode of administration, or diarchy, in which both elected Indian legislators and appointed British officials shared power. They also expanded the central and provincial legislatures.

Agriculture, local government, health, education, and public works, were handed over to Indians, while more sensitive matters such as finance, taxation, and maintaining law and order were retained by the provincial British administrators. These reforms represented the maximum concessions the British were prepared to make at that time.



Sydney Rowlatt

STAR FACT

Thunder in Punjab

The Rowlatt Act raised the anger of Indians in Punjab and many meetings were organised in protest. When two prominent leaders of Punjab, Dr Satya Pal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew, were arrested in Amritsar, the protests only intensified more.

What was the impact of the Rowlatt Act?

In 1917, a committee was set up under Sir Sydney Rowlatt to look into the militant activities of the Indian freedom fighters.

On the basis of its report, the Rowlatt Act was passed in March 1919 by the Imperial Legislative Council. The Rowlatt Act gave the Viceroy extraordinary powers to quell the rising discontent of the Indian masses.

According to this act, any person could be arrested on the basis of suspicion. No appeal or petition could be filed against such arrests. This act was called the 'black Act' and it was widely opposed.

An all-India hartal was organised on 6th April 1919. People came out in support of the hartal in various cities. Shops were shut down, and workers in railway workshops went on strike.

The British administration decided to clamp down on the nationalists. But the Rowlatt Act could not crush the will of the people. Instead, it only strengthened the resolve of the Indians not to give up the struggle until India attained independence.

The Leaders of the Muslim League, 1940

NON-COOPERATION AND THE KILAFAT MOVEMENT

What was the Khilafat Movement?

The Khilafat Movement was a movement organised by Indian Muslims in British India to protest against the injustices done to Turkey by the British after World War I.

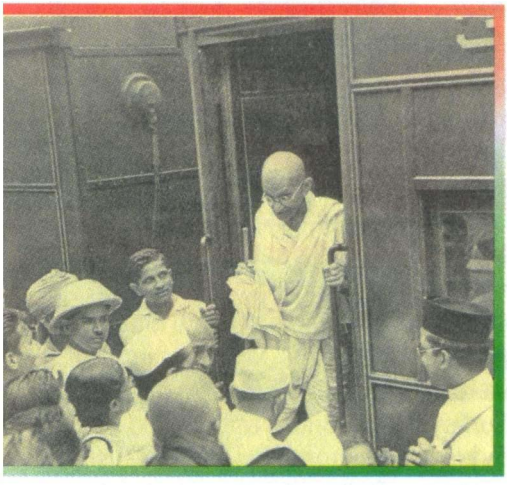
Turkey was important to Indian Muslims, because the Sultan of Turkey was also the head or 'Khalifa' of Muslims throughout the world. The Muslim leaders in India put pressure upon the British government to give better treatment to Turkey.

The Congress leaders also joined in the agitation, and helped in promoting it throughout the country.

As a result, Muslims were drawn into the national movement in large numbers. The Khilafat Movement thus became a part of the national movement.

Kala Pani

The British sent their political prisoners, to the cellular jail in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The jail has witnessed horrific tortures that were meted out to the freedom fighters and was referred to as 'Kala Pani' which means 'Black Water'.



Followers Welcome Gandhiji at a Railway Station

What was the significance of the Non -cooperation Movement?

The Non-cooperation Movement was a movement led by Mahatma Gandhi after the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.

The aim of the movement was to fight the British through non violent means. The crux of the movement was that Indians would return all titles and honours bestowed on them by the British, and boycott government educational institutions, courts, and services.

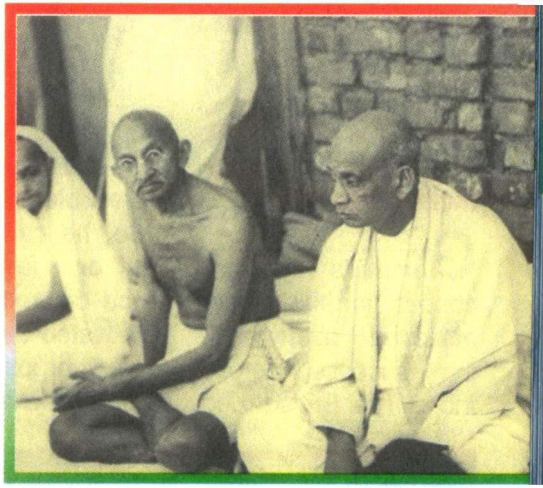
The leaders of the movement urged all Indians not to buy any foreign goods, not to take part in elections, and not to pay their taxes.

However, after an angry mob murdered police officers in the village of Chauri Chaura in February 1922, Gandhiji called off the movement. The Non-cooperation Movement is significant, because it saw the emergence of freedom struggle from a middle-class protest, to a mass based agitation.

What were the factors that led to the Non-cooperation Movement?

When World War I broke out, India was dragged into the conflict as a part of the British Empire. The British utilised India's wealth, and manpower for its own interest.

So, Indians expected that in return for this valuable service, the British Government would grant independence to them at the end of the war. But this did not happen. As a result, there was much disillusionment and dissatisfaction with the British and this led to the Non-cooperation Movement by Gandhi. Moreover, the reforms that the British finally introduced were too little, and fell far short of the demands of the nationalists. The massacre of Indians at Jallianwala Bagh horrified the nation. In addition, the restriction upon the liberty of speech and Press that were introduced by the Rowlatt Act were taken to be a signal for still greater repressive measures from



Mahatma Gandhi with Sardar Patel

the British government. Consequently, Gandhiji's call for non-cooperation with the British evoked an enthusiasm throughout the country.

The Movement became the first uprising in the history of the world that used no weapons.

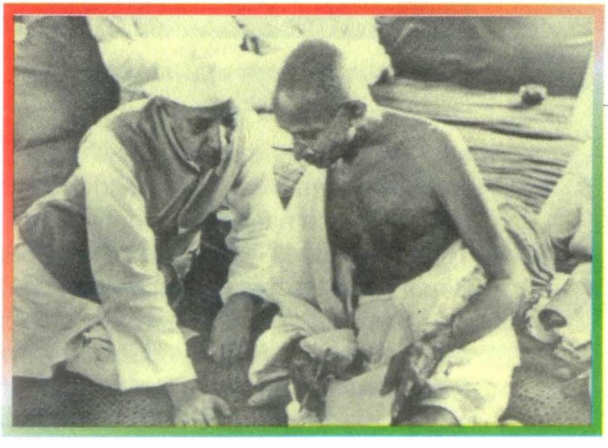
Why was the Non-cooperation Movement called off?

Gandhiji's Non-cooperation Movement achieved overwhelming success across India. The British tried to suppress the movement, and over 30,000 people were arrested from all over India.

Among prominent leaders, only Gandhi remained out of jail. On February 5th, 1922, violent clashes occurred between the local police and the protesters in Chauri Chaura.

Three protesters were killed in police firing, and a police station was set on fire by the mob, killing 22 policemen. Gandhiji was heartbroken that the movement had lost its non-violent nature. He did not want it to degenerate further and become more violent.

So, he called off the movement and went on a fast as a penance for the violence committed by his followers. The fast lasted three weeks. Even though it ended abruptly, it was successful enough to break the back of British rule.

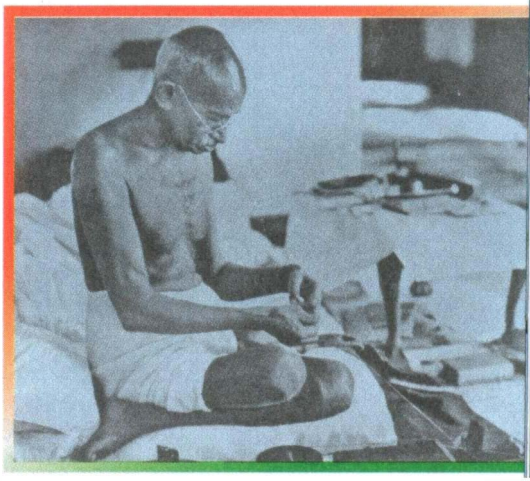


Mahatma Gandhi with Jawaharlal Nehru.

CURIOUS FACT

Above All Prizes

Gandhiji, was above all, a man of peace who introduced the idea of a non-violent revolution to the world. Yet he was never awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, though he was nominated for it several times.



Mahatma Gandhi

Why were the 1920s an exciting time for the Freedom Movement?

In India, the 1920's saw the emergence of the men and women who were to have a huge impact on the future of India.

They were Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel, C. Rajagopalachari, and Subhash Chandra Bose among others. Gandhiji persuaded many of his followers to use non-violent protests.

They had sit-down strikes, they refused to work, they refused to pay their taxes, and in general, they made it difficult for the British to govern. The British were in a quandary for if they reacted in a heavy-handed manner, it only made matters worse for it made them look like bullies.

It was also a time when new parties were formed. Some of these parties were moderate in their outlook, others were more militant. One of them was the Swaraj Party. They all had a common dream, which was freedom for India.

C.R. Das

Motilal Nehru

What was the role of the Swaraj Party?

After the Non-cooperation Movement was withdrawn, there was some confusion in the Congress as to what the next course of action should be.

Elections were scheduled to be held in 1923, and many leaders were eager to contest, and enter the legislative assembly so that they could bring about some changes.

One such leader was C. R. Das, who resigned as president of the Congress. Along with Motilal Nehru and N.C. Kelkar, he launched a new political outfit called 'Congress Khilafat Swarajya Party,' or simply, the 'Swaraj Party'. These leaders did win the elections, but the political climate was such that they could not really bring about any changes.

The Swaraj Party played a significant role in the Freedom Movement by keeping alive the hunger for freedom, and fostering Hindu-Muslim unity.

End of 'Swaraj Party'

The Swaraj Party became weak after the death of Chittaranjan Das in 1925. Later, Motilal Nehru too returned to the Congress, and the Swaraj party was greatly weakened.

Republic Day Parade

Why was January 26th 1930, an important day for India?

January 26th is celebrated as our Republic Day. But 20 years before India became a republic, the date 26th January had great significance for Indians. For it was on this day, in 1930, that the Indian National Congress declared Purna Swaraj, or complete freedom from the British Raj as its goal.

One option before the Congress was to demand dominion status, under which India would have still remained at least nominally under British rule. The Congress rejected this option, and instead asked for Purna Swaraj, which means complete independence. The Congress declared 26th January as 'Independence Day'.

In fact, until India became independent on 15th August 1947, it was 26th January that was observed as Independence Day by freedom fighters throughout the land. After Independence, the date was chosen as Republic Day since August 15th was already our Independence Day.

STAR FACT

Frontier Gandhi

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan played a key role in organising protests against the British on the western front. He was a strong believer in non-violence too, and was known as the Frontier Gandhi.

● *Radha Nair*

Dandi March

Why was the Salt March a turning point in the freedom movement?

Britain's Salt Acts prohibited Indians from collecting, or selling salt. Citizens were forced to buy salt from the British, who taxed it heavily. Gandhiji reasoned that defying the Salt Tax would be a simple and effective way for many Indians to break a British law without using violence.

On March 12th, 1930, Gandhiji set out from his ashram at Sabarmati near Ahmadabad, with his followers, to the coastal town of Dandi. All along the way, Gandhiji addressed large crowds, and with each passing day an increasing number of people joined the march.

By the time they reached Dandi on April 5th, Gandhiji was at the head of a crowd of tens of thousands. Then, early the next morning, he walked down to the sea, and reached down to pick up a small lump of natural salt out of the mud. By this small act, he defied the British law, and created a huge impact.

Nationalists led crowds of citizens in making salt, and Gandhiji's Salt March put India firmly on the road to freedom.

What was the aftermath of the Dandi Salt March?

The Salt March, which took place from March to April 1930, was an act of civil disobedience led by Gandhiji. His actions sent shockwaves across the nation.

Indians all over the country were inspired to flout the salt Tax, and launch strikes and boycotts against colonial institutions. Gandhiji and some 80,000 others were arrested.

In January 1931, Gandhiji was released from prison. He later met with the then Viceroy, Lord Irwin. In March 1931, the two worked out the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. According to this pact, Gandhiji agreed to end the satyagraha in exchange for several concessions.

These included an invitation to the Congress to a Round Table Conference in London, the release of thousands of political prisoners, and permission for Indians living on the coasts to produce the salt from the sea. However, the British Rule maintained its monopoly over the sale of salt.

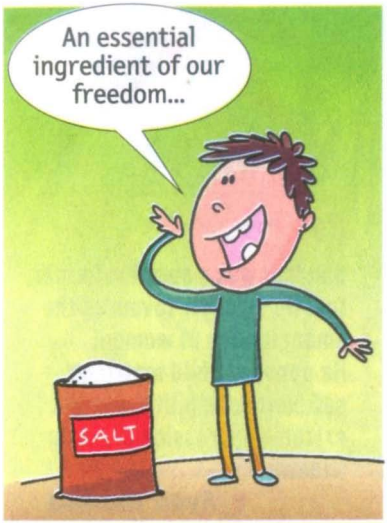
CURIOUS FACT

Reformer

Gandhiji was a social reformer, too. He strongly favoured the emancipation of women. He opposed child marriage, sati, untouchability, and the extreme oppression of Hindu widows.

● *Ryan Thomas*

Gandhiji Gathers Salt on the Beach of Dandi



CURIOUS FACT

Satyagraha

The word 'satyagraha' means 'truth force' or 'holding onto truth'. Gandhiji used the term to describe his form of non violent protest of which the Salt Satyagraha was a part. Interestingly, the pinch of salt picked up by Gandhiji was sold for 1,600 rupees to raise money for the Freedom Movement!

What was the impact of the Dandi March on the world?

It is true that Gandhiji's Dandi March did not win any major concessions from the British. However, it nevertheless succeeded in his goal of 'shaking the foundations of the British Empire'.

It drew worldwide attention to the Indian independence movement through extensive newspaper and newsreel coverage. The march to the sea had captured the imagination of Indians, and its international coverage had introduced Gandhiji and his followers to the world.

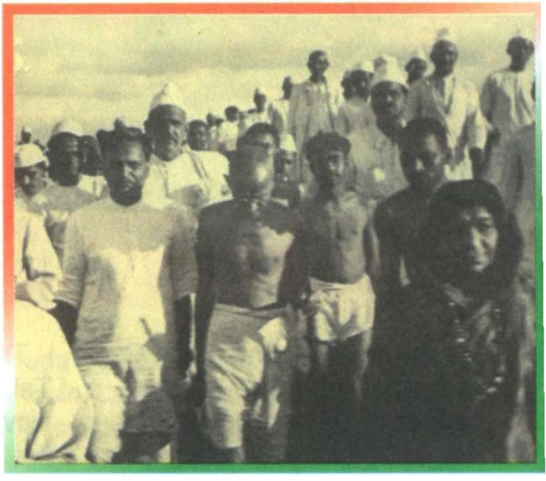
Gandhiji's commitment to non-violence astonished a world where violence was taken for granted as the only tool for a revolution. These concepts of non-violence and civil disobedience were something totally new to the West.

By just grasping a handful of salt from the beach at Dandi, Gandhiji had sent a simple message that was not only answered by millions of his country then, but that continues to inspire the world to this day.

How did the Dandi March give an impetus to the Civil Disobedience Movement?

Gandhiji's Dandi March encouraged millions of Indians to defy the British by breaking the unfair salt laws of the British. Indians started making, or buying salt illegally.

The non-violent satyagrahis did not defend themselves against the lathis of policemen, and many were killed instantly. The country was outraged. Gandhiji asked the people to give up wearing foreign cloth, and start using rough cotton khadi made of yarn spun by the charkha, or the wooden spinning wheel.



Another View of Dandi March

This would not only undermine Britain's economic power, but also give employment to the poor in the countryside. All over India, piles of foreign cloth and foreign goods were burnt. It was civil disobedience on a scale never seen before.

The British administration was nearly paralyzed. The Viceroy, who had laughed at Gandhiji's 'crazy scheme of upsetting the government with a pinch of salt', learnt that a pinch of salt could be more powerful than the mightiest cannon!

Round Table Conference

What were the Round Table Conferences?

The three Round Table Conferences of 1930–32 were a series of conferences that were organised to chalk out the future constitution of India in the light of suggestions given by the Indian leaders.

The First Round Table Conference was held from 12th November 1930 to 19th January 1931. The Congress boycotted the conference as its demand for a discussion on 'Purna Swaraj' of India was rejected by the British Government.

The Second Round Table Conference was held in London in Septemeber, 1931. Gandhiji went to England to attend it along with Sarojini Naidu, Mahadev Desai, G.D. Birla and Madan Mohan Malaviya. He pleaded powerfully for the immediate grant of dominion status to India, which was refused.

The third and last Round Table Conference was on November 17th, 1932. Neither the Indian National Congress nor the British Labour Party attended it, so it had little impact.

In fact, all three Round Table Conferences proved to be a disappointment for Indian leaders, as the British proved to be quite unyielding and unsympathetic to the hopes and dreams of millions of Indians.

What was the Gandhi-Irwin Pact?

After the failure of the First Round Table Conference, the British Government decided to try for a compromise with Gandhiji, who had been arrested and put in prison.

Chittagong Uprising

On April 18, 1930, armed revolutionaries led by Surya Sen raided the armoury of the police and auxiliary forces from the Chittagong armoury in Bengal. Sixty-five people carried out this raid successfully. Surya Sen, the leader, was later captured and executed by the British.

On 26th January 1931, Gandhiji was released from prison along with other Congress leaders. The Viceroy invited Gandhiji to Delhi for talks, and the result of these talks was the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.

The pact was a political agreement that was signed between Mahatma Gandhi and the then Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin, on 5th March 1931. According to this agreement, it was decided that the Civil Disobedience Movement would be discontinued, and that steps would be taken for the Congress to participate in the Second Round Table Conference.

The pact was welcomed as a triumph for the Congress, but there were many who felt that the demands of the Indians had not been given due recognition.

Lord Irwin

Why is Subhas Chandra Bose one of the icons of the freedom movement?

Subhas Chandra Bose who was called Netaji by the people, was one of the greatest sons of India and a revered icon of the freedom struggle. He was the leader of the radical, younger wing of the Indian National Congress during 1920s and 1930s.

Another Bose

Rash Behari Bose helped in the organisation of the Ghadar Party and also the Indian National Army. He was another Bose who was also one of the heroes of the freedom struggle.

Later, he was selected as President of Congress in 1938 but left because of his differences with Congress policy.

He believed that Gandhi-ji's path of non-violence was not the way to make India an independent country. Netaji escaped from India during Second World War, and went to Germany, and then to Japan.

With Japanese support, Netaji raised an army called the Indian National Army to fight for India's freedom. He trained Indian prisoners of war from Germany, Italy, and Japan and made plans to march back, and drive the British out of India.

Netaji fled to an unknown destination to avoid being captured by the British. To this day, no one knows exactly what happened to him.

What do we know about Subhas Chandra Bose's earlier years?

Subhas Chandra Bose was a patriot right from his earliest years. He was a brilliant student who excelled at his studies, but was asked to leave Presidency College in Calcutta for assaulting a profes-

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

Netaji with Gandhiji

sor who made anti-India comments. He later cracked the civil services examination after his graduation, and secured a job with the civil service department, but quit because he did not want to work under the British.

After leaving a highly desirable and lucrative job, Bose joined the Indian National Congress to join in the freedom struggle. His mentor was Chittaranjan Das who stoked the fire of nationalism in the heart of young Subhas Chandra Bose.

Bose started the newspaper 'Swaraj' and also rose to the position of the editor of the newspaper, 'Forward', founded by Chittaranjan Das. Bose became a leader of national stature, and agreed to accept nomination as Congress President. He later resigned from the position as he did not agree with Gandhiji's idea that freedom could be won by non-violence. Though he parted ways with the Congress, Subhas Chandra Bose remained steadfast in his dream of a free India, and never gave up fighting for this cause.

What was the role of the INA in India's freedom struggle?

Subhas Chandra Bose led a serious armed struggle against the British during the Second World War. In 1943, he went to Japan to plan an attack on the British and win independence for India with Japan's help.

Bose took charge of the famous Indian National Army

also known as the INA or the Azad Hind Fauj, which was formed with the help of Rash Behari Bose and Mohan Singh. It is here that Subhas Chandra Bose came to known as Netaji.

The INA set up an independent government in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It then entered into India through Burma, and captured Kohima after severe fighting with the British army. The INA tried to capture Imphal also but Japan was having troubles of its own, and could not give the help expected.

Netaji's top lieutenants were arrested, and when the Allies, led by Britain, won World War II, Netaji's dream of liberating India with the help of Japan remained unfulfilled.

The INA however remains a symbol of India's determination to be a free and independent nation- a symbol that is very dear to, and deeply honoured by the nation today.

Netaji at INA Women's Wing Parade

STAR FACT

Another Unsung Hero

Another unsung hero of the freedom movement was Vakkom Abdul Khader. He was a true patriot who was willing to die for the cause. He was hanged to death by the British in 1943.

● *Sneha Rao*

THE FINAL BATTLE

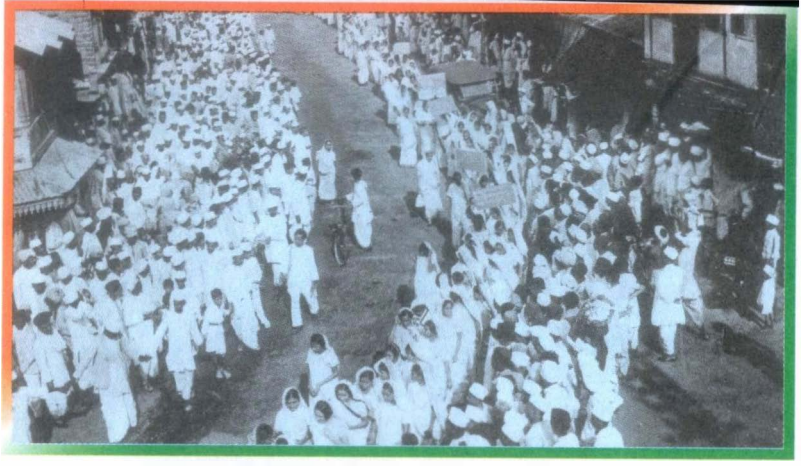
What was the Quit India Movement?

The Quit India Movement was a civil disobedience movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi on 8th August 1942, at the Bombay Session of the All India Congress Committee.

A resolution was passed demanding an immediate end to the British rule. A mass non-violent struggle was organised on the widest scale possible. Gandhiji's slogan of 'Do or Die' inspired millions of Indians, and strengthened their determination to die rather than give up the goal of freedom. The British response to the movement was quick. The Congress was banned, and most of its leaders were arrested before they could start mobilising the people.

The people, however, were unstoppable.They attacked all symbols of the British government such as railway stations, law courts, and police stations. Railway lines were damaged, and telegraph lines were cut. In some places, people even formed alternative governments. The British responded with terrible brutality.

However, though they could oppress the people, they could not suppress the people's demand that foreign rulers should quit India.



A Protest March in Bombay, 1930

How did the British respond to the Quit India Movement?

The British were prepared for a massive uprising by the Indians. Within a few hours of a speech by Gandhiji calling for an orderly withdrawal of the British from Indian soil, the top leaders of the Indian National Congress leaders were swiftly arrested.

Most of them spent the next three years in jail. There were lathi-charges, public floggings and firing at the unarmed demonstrators. Protestors were arrested and tortured, and their homes raided and destroyed. The Quit India Movement became rudderless.

However, in spite of its flaws, the movement had made the British realise that they would not be able to govern India successfully in the long run. They began to think of ways they could exit the country in a peaceful and dignified manner, after the end of World War II.

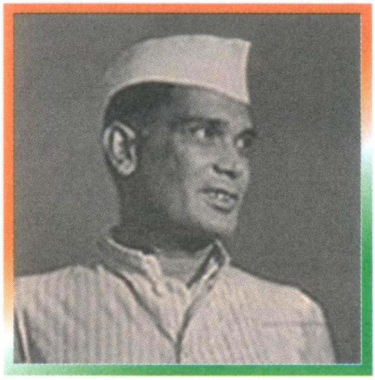
What was the role of Jayaprakash Narayan in the freedom struggle?

Jayaprakash Narayan or JP as he was lovingly called was a disciple of Gandhiji, a political leader and social reformer.

Narayan became secretary of the Congress party when Nehru was its leader. When all the other party leaders were arrested, Narayan carried on the struggle against the British. He was one of the frontrunners of the Quit India Movement.

During World War II, Narayan became a national hero by leading violent opposition to the British. He engineered strikes, train wrecks, and riots. Jayaprakash Narayan met Ram Manohar Lohia, Minoo Masani, Ashok Mehta, and other national leaders when he was put behind bars in 1932 because of the civil disobedience movement.

After JP came out of jail, he along with others, established the Congress Socialist Party. JP was repeatedly jailed by the British during the freedom struggle, and his escapes and heroic activities captured the public's imagination.



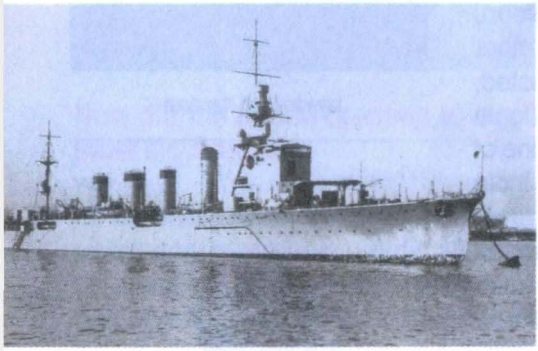
Jayaprakash Narayan

Congress Radio

Congress leaders who had gone into hiding during the Quit India Movement started an illegal radio service to keep the spirit of freedom alive in the people. Usha Mehta, Ram Manohar Lohia, and Poornima Banerjee were some of the leaders behind this radio service that was called Congress Radio.

Casualties of War

India, too suffered the consequences of the World War II. In the aftermath, there was widespread famine in the land, and it is estimated that lakhs of lives were lost to famine in addition to the casualties of war.



Japanese Cruiser Naka

What was the importance of the Christmas Island Mutiny?

Eleven hundred kilometres south of Singapore lies Christmas Island which was under the control of the British in 1942. Britain maintained a small force that employed Indian soldiers on the island.

From the beginning of World War II, Christmas Island was a target for Japanese occupation, because of its rich deposits of phosphates. During the night of 11th March 1942, a mutiny of the Indian troops, abetted by Sikh policemen, led to the murder of the five British soldiers and the imprisonment of the remaining Europeans on the island. This was known as the Christmas Island Mutiny.

Soon after, Japanese bombers launched an attack on the island, and a Japanese fleet, including cruiser Naka arrived. Because of the mutiny by Indian soldiers, Japanese troops were able to occupy Christmas Island without any resistance.

The mutiny did play a role in hastening Britain's decision to withdraw from India, and give India its independence.

Bombay Harbour, 1946

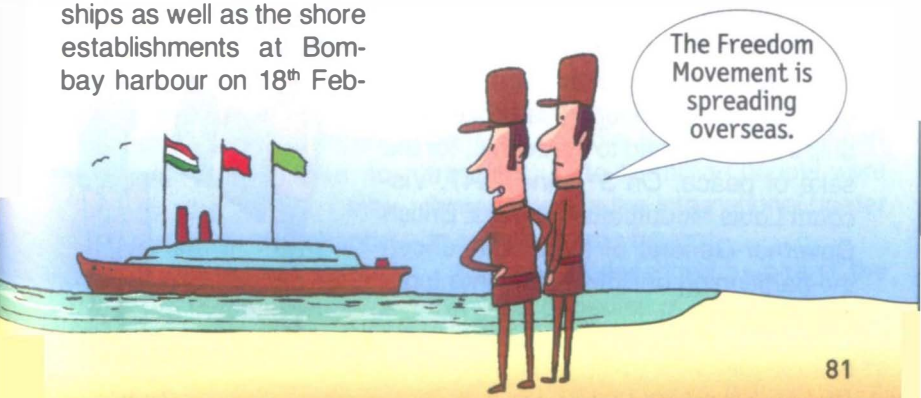
What is the significance of the Royal Indian Navy Mutiny?

The Royal Indian Navy Mutiny, also known as the Bombay Mutiny, took place in 1946. The mutiny was sparked by the arrogance of the British officers. It started as a strike by the Indian sailors to protest against the hardships regarding pay, food, and racial discrimination.

It began on board the ships as well as the shore establishments at Bombay harbour on 18th February 1946. From the initial flashpoint in Bombay, the revolt spread, and found support throughout British India, from Karachi to Calcutta.

It ultimately involved 66 ships, shore establishments, and 10,000 sailors. The mutineers hoisted three flags tied together on the ships which they had captured -one of Congress, one of Muslim League, and the third, the red flag of the Communist Party of India.

The mutiny was ended by the intervention of Sardar Patel.



Nehru Addresses Independent India on 15th August, 1947

DAWN OF FREEDOM

Why was the birth of independent India tinged with sadness?

The birth of an independent India was a long awaited dream. But when it finally happened, it was tinged with sadness. This was because by then, the country had been divided into two.

The British knew that they could not fight a united India, so they followed a policy of 'divide and rule'. This meant that they created much discord among Indian Hindus and Muslims.

The Muslims began to demand their own nation, and though this broke Gandhiji's heart, he had to agree to it, for the sake of peace. On 3rd June 1947, Viscount Louis Mountbatten, the last British Governor-General of India, announced the partitioning of British India into India and Pakistan.

Thus, at 11:57 pm on 14th August 1947, Pakistan was declared a separate nation, and at 12:02, just after midnight, on 15th August 1947, India also became a sovereign and democratic nation. The freedom struggle did not therefore lead to the birth of a single united India, but of two different nations- Pakistan and India.

Aruna Asif Ali

Aruna Asif Ali was the 33 year old freedom fighter who hoisted the Indian National Congress flag for the first time. The historic event took place in 1942, in Bombay, during the Quit India Movement.

What was the tragedy that shadowed the joy of independence?

Soon after India won her hard earned independence, the celebrations were cut short by the tragedy of communal riots that followed the partition of India.

The actual transfer of power to India and Pakistan proved to be bloody and bitter. Hindus living for generations in what was to become Pakistan, had to flee their homes overnight.

At the same time, millions of Muslims abandoned their homes to cross the border into Pakistan. In the chaotic days and months following the independence of India and Pakistan, violence multiplied as religious sentiment intensified, and there was little in the way of police or military to maintain law and order.

An Iconic Image of Partition-
A Refugee Train to Pakistan

The estimated loss of life during the partition of India is one million. Apart from this, 14 to 18 million people were forced to cross the international border in search of safe havens.

It has been described as one of the ten great tragedies of the 20th century.

Why was 1950 an important year for India?

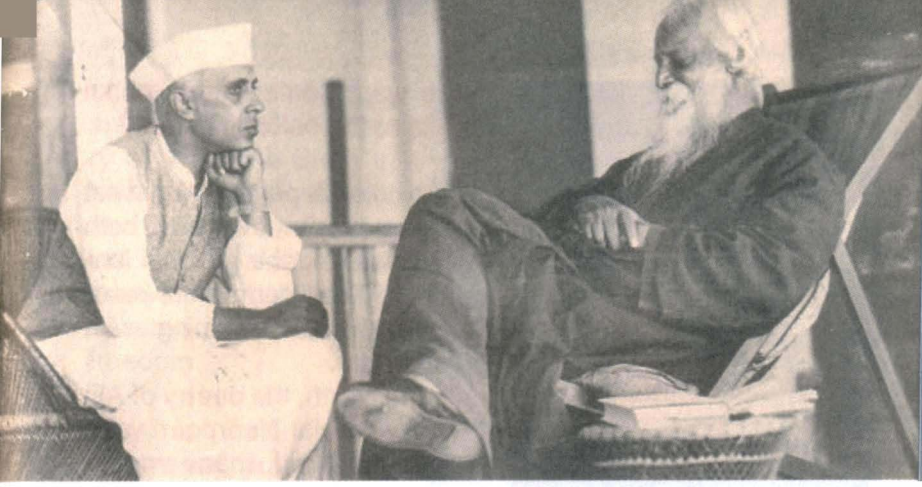
In the year 1950, the Republic of India was born, the year that India took its rightful place among the sovereign nations of the world. India, under Gandhiji had struggled through decades of passive resistance, before Britain finally accepted Indian independence.

Nehru signing India's Constitution

On August 15th, 1947, what should have been one united nation, became two separate, independent nations of India and Pakistan.

After independence was won in 1947, India's Parliament wrote a constitution that changed India's status as a dominion of the British Empire to a fully independent republic, a federated nation, and a union of states.

This constitution became the law on 26th January 1950, which is celebrated as India's Republic Day. The new nation faced many challenges. These included the integration of the former princely states into the Indian union, and dealing with movements for greater autonomy in some states. Yet, it could hold up its head with pride as having emerged as the world's largest democracy- and one that has inspired others to seek freedom through a non-violent revolution.



Nehru with Tagore

THE PEN FOR FREEDOM

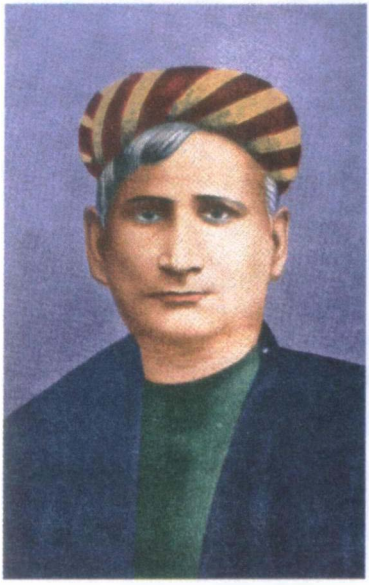
What was the role played by writers in the Indian Independence Movement?

Writers and poets played an important role in India's independence movement for they breathed life into the concepts and visions of freedom. The Movement, just like the French revolution, witnessed a lot of literary works that motivate the Indians to fight till the end.

Both known and unknown poets kept the spirit of freedom alive even during the bleakest hours of the struggle with their immortal words.

Rabindranath Tagore, Muhammad Iqbal, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Subramania Bharati, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarojini Naidu, Sri Aurobindo, and Gandhiji himself are just some of the names that come instantly to the mind. These writings were not only in English but in the regional languages as well.

As the freedom movement strengthened and attracted more sections of the people, it was the poets, writers and journalists who cemented the people's resolve never to give up till freedom was won.



Bankim Chandra Chatterjee

Who were some of the Indian poets of the colonial period?

The colonial period in India set off an explosion of poetry, both in English and the regional languages. The poems were revolutionary, and brimming with nationalism.

In the North, the poetry of Ajit Singh, Nandal Noorpoori, and others inspired mass movements and revolutionary activities.

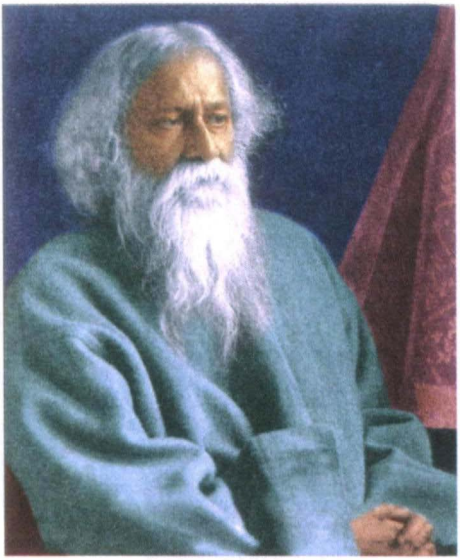
From Bengal, two immortal songs- Vande mataram by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and Rabindranath Tagore's Jana Gana Mana- are just some of the works that stir our hearts and souls to this very day.

In the South, Subramania Bharati's first collection of poems was titled 'Songs of Freedom,' and his words consolidated the spirit of devotion

The Scars of Division

The partition of India was one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century. The anguish and the horror of this division of a nation has been the subject of many poems and novels in Punjabi, Urdu, Bengali, Sindhi, Hindi and English.

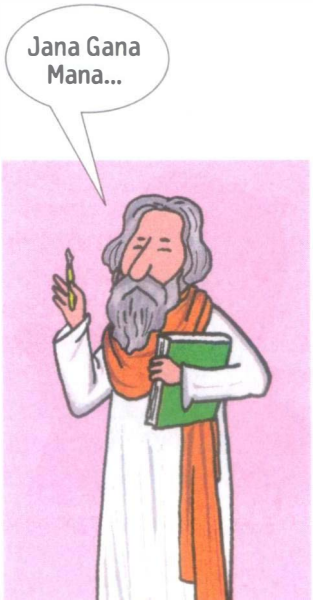
and patriotism, struggle and sacrifice. The poetry of Wajid Ali Shah in Lucknow and Ghalib and Bahadur Shah Zafar in Delhi, along with many others, all lyrically ushered in the dawn of freedom.



Rabindranath Tagore

Why is Rabindranath Tagore not just a great poet, but a great patriot as well?

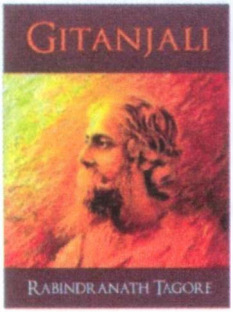
Rabindranath Tagore was a scholar, freedom fighter, writer and painter, but above all, he was a patriot. He wrote poems, songs, and stories about different aspects of India's culture and society.



Tagore had a profound influence on Bengali literature and music and he became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for his collection of poems titled 'Gitanjali'. He wrote both in Bengali and English, and his works proved to be pathbreaking and revolutionary.

The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre filled him with such anguish that he returned the knighthood that the

British Government had bestowed upon him. Two of his poems have become the national anthems of two countries- India and Bangladesh- while many others are so charged with emotion and patriotism, that they inspire millions to this very day.

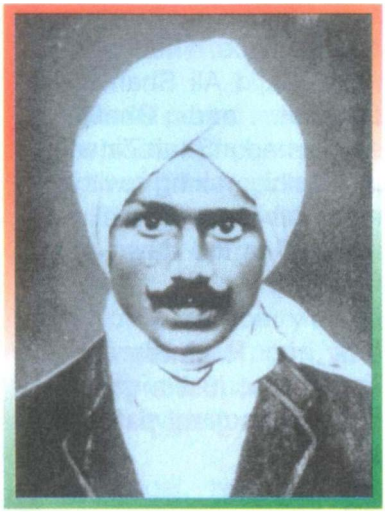


Tagore's Gitanjali

Why is Subramania Bharati considered one of the greatest among Indian poets and patriots?

Subramania Bharati is considered to be one of the greatest Tamil poets. Most of his works were on religious, political, and social themes.

The Partition of Bengal on 28th September 1905, brought Bharati, like many others,



Subramania Bharati

more actively in the public and political life through movements of boycott and Swadeshi.

He attended the Congress session at Benares in 1905,

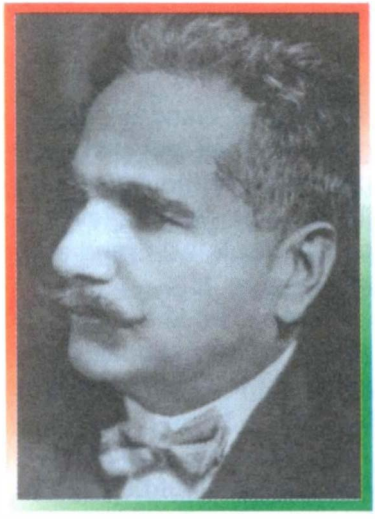
with Gokhale as President, and also the next session at Calcutta, with Dadabhai as President. He became a champion of women's rights and welfare and wrote 'Nations are made of homes. And so long as you do not have justice and equality fully practiced at home; you cannot expect to see them practiced in your public life'.

Bharati believed in equal freedom for all without distinction of caste, class, and creed, as is evident in his poetry. In fact, for Bharati, poetry was life, and his life was poetry.

Why will Muhammad Iqbal be always remembered?

Muhammad Iqbal was a great poet, and philosopher. He is commonly referred to as Allama Iqbal.

Iqbal attacked both Hindu and Muslim fanaticism, ridiculed orthodox mullahs and pandits, and exhorted not only Indians but Asians against western imperialism. Iqbal's vision of an independent state for the Muslims of British India was to inspire the creation of Pakistan.



Muhammad Iqbal

Iqbal will always be remembered for his most famous poem - 'Sare Jahaan Se Achha'. This poem became a symbol of resistance to the English rule of British-occupied India.

It is one of the enduring patriotic poems in the Urdu language. The lyrics are so simple, elegant, rhythmic, and beautiful.

The musical composition is so melodious that Iqbal's 'Sare Jahaan Se Achha' moves and inspires everyone who hears it.

What is Bankim Chandra Chatterjee most famous for?

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, a great Bengali novelist, poet, and nationalist of the 19th century, had the exceptional gift of being able to communicate with, and arouse the masses.

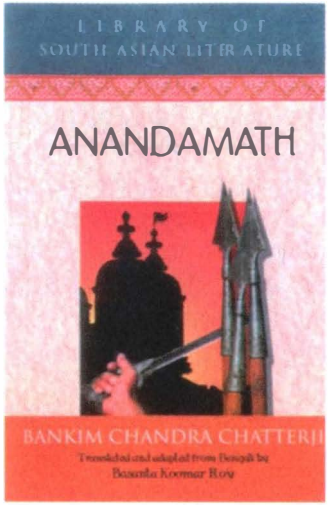
A nationalist to the core, his goal was to revive national pride and by doing so, to fight for freedom from the British.

In 1882, he published a novel Anandamath that became his most famous, as well as his most political novel. It proved to be a source of inspiration for patriots fighting to throw off the yoke of British rule, and the chant of Vande Mataram was coined from this book.

Vande Mataram became a patriotic hymn that stirred an entire nation, and it was later adopted by the Indian Government as the national song.

Vande Mataram expresses Bankim Chandra's vision of the Mother India as a goddess, and of a woman as holy and venerable. His vision ignited the imagination of the whole of Bengal, and rest of India as well.

The poem is loved by most of the Indians even today.



Anandamath

Sarojini Naidu

STAR FACT

Royal Rejection

In 1922, the Prince of Wales visited India and bestowed a royal honour on Vallathol. However, the poet, a nationalist at heart, rejected it.

What was the role of the poet Sarojini Naidu in the freedom struggle?

Known as the 'Nightingale of India', Sarojini Naidu was a distinguished poet and renowned freedom fighter. She joined the Indian national movement in the wake of the Bengal Partition in 1905.

During the freedom struggle, she became a follower of Gandhiji, and devoted herself to emancipation of women, education, Hindu-Muslim unity, and other patriotic and social causes.

Sarojini Naidu had the honour of presiding over the annual session of Indian National Congress at Kanpur in 1925.

She participated in the Round Table Conference with Mahatma Gandhi. In the year 1942, Sarojini Naidu was arrested during the Quit India Movement and jailed for 21 months with Gandhiji.

Sarojini Naidu was appointed as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, as soon as India became independent.

Her poetry, which was filled with love for her motherland and yearning for its freedom, has inspired and moved generations of Indians to the present day.

Why was Vallathol an important voice in the freedom struggle?

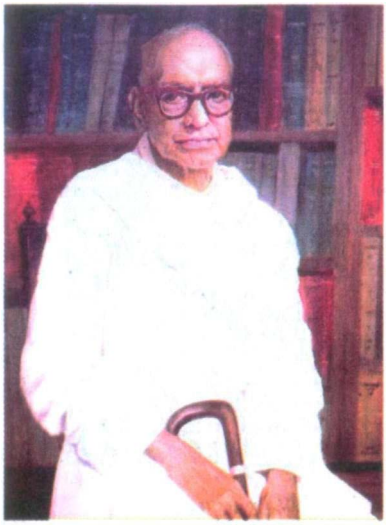
Vallathol Narayana Menon is one of the greatest poets of Kerala, who was also a nationalist and patriot. He participated in India's freedom struggle, and reawakened our pride in our national heritage and identity.

A follower of Gandhiji, he was a participant of many national movements. Vallathol, as he was lovingly called, attended the All India Conferences of the Indian Congress in 1922 and 1927. His beautiful verses urged the masses to hold aloft the torch of freedom.

Vallathol's songs in praise of his country also depicted her suffering under the British rule, and awakened millions of Indians to the glory of their motherland.

He also wrote against caste restriction, tyrannies and orthodoxies.

Through him, Kerala's voice could be heard loud and clear during the protests against the British.



Vallathol Narayana Menon

Mighty Pen

Sarojini Naidu was so shocked by the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre that she stopped writing poetry after that.

What are some of the slogans of the freedom movement?

India awoke to freedom on 15th August, 1947. The journey to freedom was one filled with sacrifice and suffering, but the people of India never lost heart. Whenever their steps faltered, their leaders were there to urge them on by example, and with stirring slogans.

The most famous of these was 'Jai Hind' which was first used by Subhas Chandra Bose. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's 'Vande Matram' was also a war cry for the freedom fighters. 'Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it,' said Lokamanya Tilak.

Not only did these slogan motivated people to fight for their rights, but also provoked the love for country in the hearts of thousands of people. 'Satyamev Jayate' or 'Truth Alone Triumphs' is a slogan that has not only been adopted as the national motto of India, but is also inscribed in script at the base of our national emblem.

There are many more such stirring words whether it is Bhagat Singh's 'Inquilab Zindabad' or Netaji's 'Give me blood and I will give you freedom'.

It is these slogans that kept our freedom fighters going till India was free from British bondage.

PHOTO QUIZ 8

Here's a contest for our readers.
Identify these FAMOUS PERSONS,
from the photos given here.

All you need to do is send us an email naming each one with the proper number.

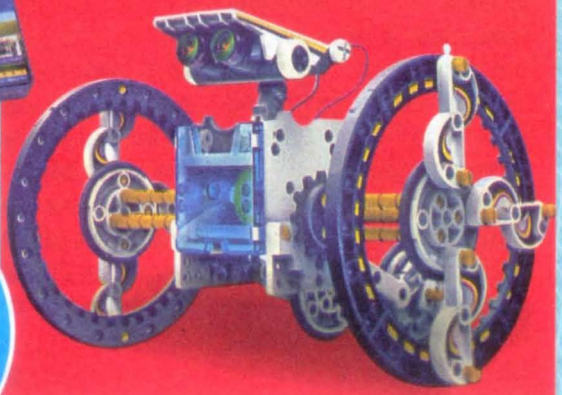
(PLEASE GIVE YOUR POSTAL ADDRESS ALSO IN THE E-MAIL)
You are also welcome to send your answers by post.

Ten winners will be awarded prizes.

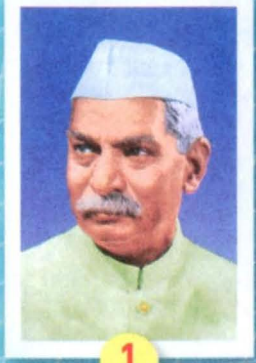
In case there are more than ten correct entries, the winners will be chosen by lot.

FOR 10 LUCKY WINNERS

14 in 1 EDUCATIONAL SOLAR Energy Kit



Build Solar Robot and other thirteen different models powered by SOLAR ENERGY



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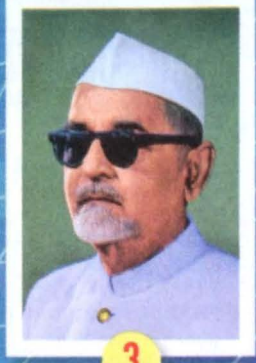

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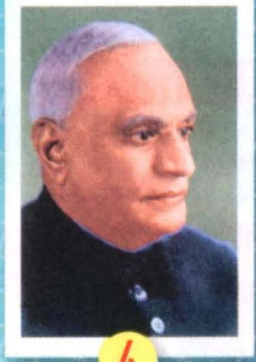

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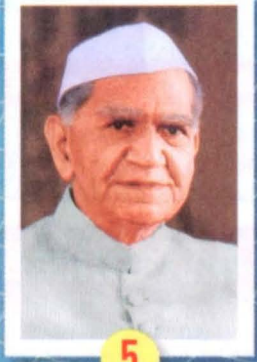

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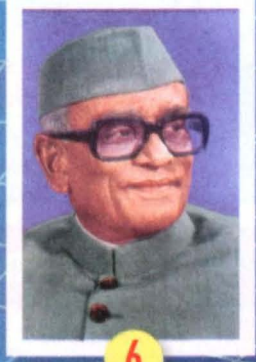

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Last date to receive entries:
2016 AUGUST 25

If you are sending your entry by post, superscribe this on your envelope.

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Our e-mail address: childrensdivision@mmp.in
Please enter
TMW - PHOTO QUIZ 8 in the subject line of your email.

PHOTO QUIZ-5 WINNERS

Winners of the Photo Quiz-5 held in the May issue of Tell Me Why.

1. Shilpa Menon
Kottarathil, Koipalli Karaima,Olakettiambalam P.O., Mavelikara, Alapppuzha, Kerala.

2. Yash Sheth
32/402, HP Nagar East, 3rd Floor, Vashinaka, Chembur, Mumbai.

3. Nitesh Kakkar
I-62 RBI Officers Flats, Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.

4. Aruna Devi M,
D.No.27-4-1215/9, Flat No.401, Sreeja Classic Apartment, Balaji Nagar, Andhra Pradesh.

5. Shivam Gupta
Q.No. 347/Type 2/Sector 3; B.H.E.L. Ranipur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

6. Ahmad Nawed
Ismail Shaheed Mill Road, Near Airtel Tower, M.M.Colony, Siwan, Bihar.

7. Devika Anup
H-59, F-3, Neithal Apartments, Thiruvalluvar Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai.

8. Bodhisattva Duduka
S/o Venkatesh Duduka, HNo 1-95 /3/C1, Beside St. Peter's Pharmacy College, Madikonda, Telangana.

9. Bhavya Shandilya
A-181 Shiv Shakti Nagar, Modal Town, Jagatpura Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

10. Divyansh Kumar
4/69, Vipul Khand -4, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

PHOTO QUIZ-5 ANSWERS

1. Leo Tolstoy. 2. Fyodor Dostoyevsky. 3. Maxim Gorky. 4. Alexander Pushkin. 5. Anton Chekhov.

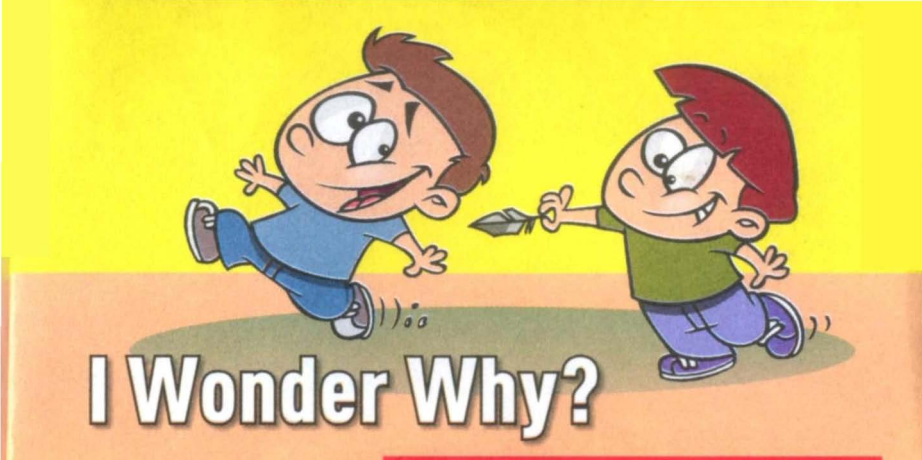
Corrections & Clarifications

Achyut Chaturvedi, Sohom Ray Mandal, Subham Biswas, Sahil Deshmukh, Anita Sharma, Ujan Banerjee, Vaibhav Singh, and many other readers points out a correction to the Tell Me Why issue on 100 New Inventions (June). They refer to the mention on Page 56, where it is wrongly stated that the letters GPS stand for Global Navigation System.

Actually, the letters GPS stand for Global Positioning System.

Thank you readers for your valuable feedback.

- Editor



I Wonder Why?

Question of the Month

Why do we laugh when we are tickled?

Our body has many sensitive spots like the skin near the throat, under the feet, etc. When these spots are stimulated by a light touch, the nerve endings under our skin sends a signal to the brain.

Two areas known as the somatosensory cortex, and the anterior cingulate cortex in the brain analyse the touch, and create the tickling sensation.

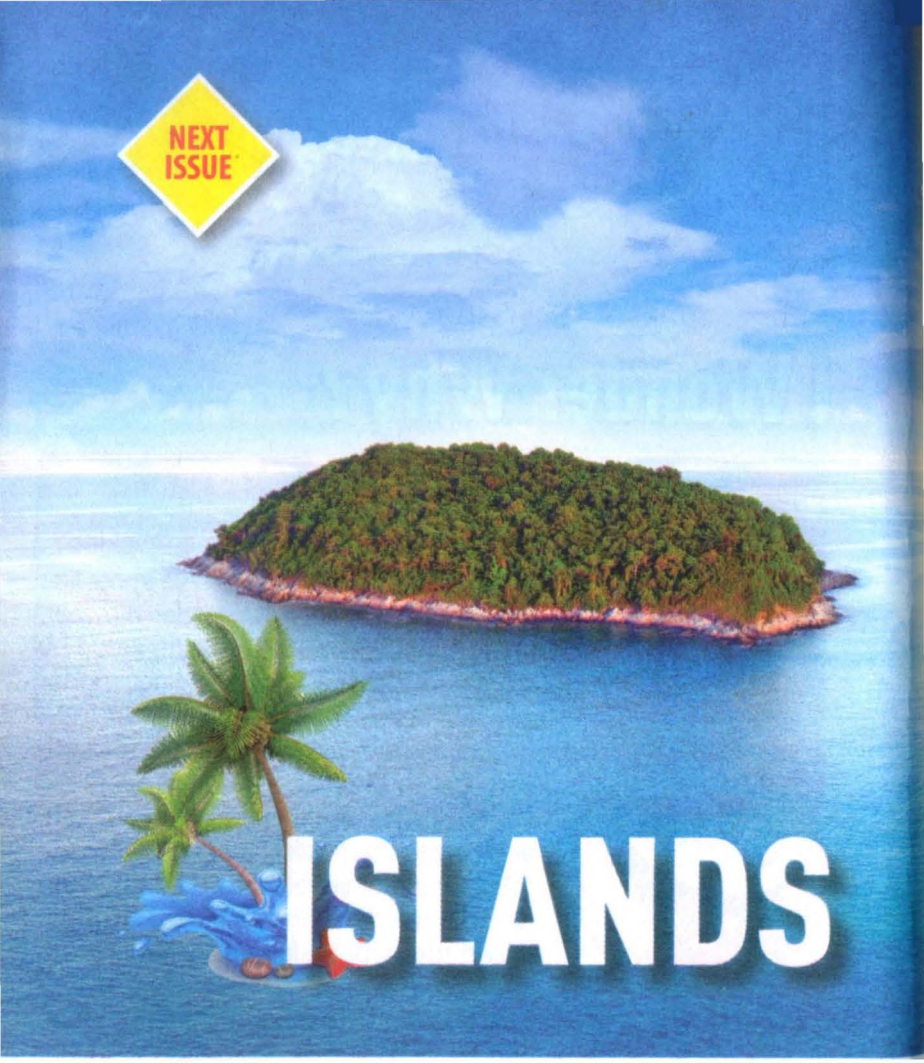
Scientists believe that we laugh when we are tickled because a part of the brain called the hypothalamus, tells us to do so. Hypothalamus is also the same part that tells us to expect a painful sensation.

That means we have evolved to laugh on tickling, as a signal to show our submission to an aggressor, and thus prevent us from getting hurt.

● *Indhu Thomas*

Question sent by:
Aryan Kaushik, on e-mail.

Send us your questions
E mail: **tellmewhy@mmp.in**



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MANORAMA TELL ME WHY - OUR FREEDOM STRUGGLE

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